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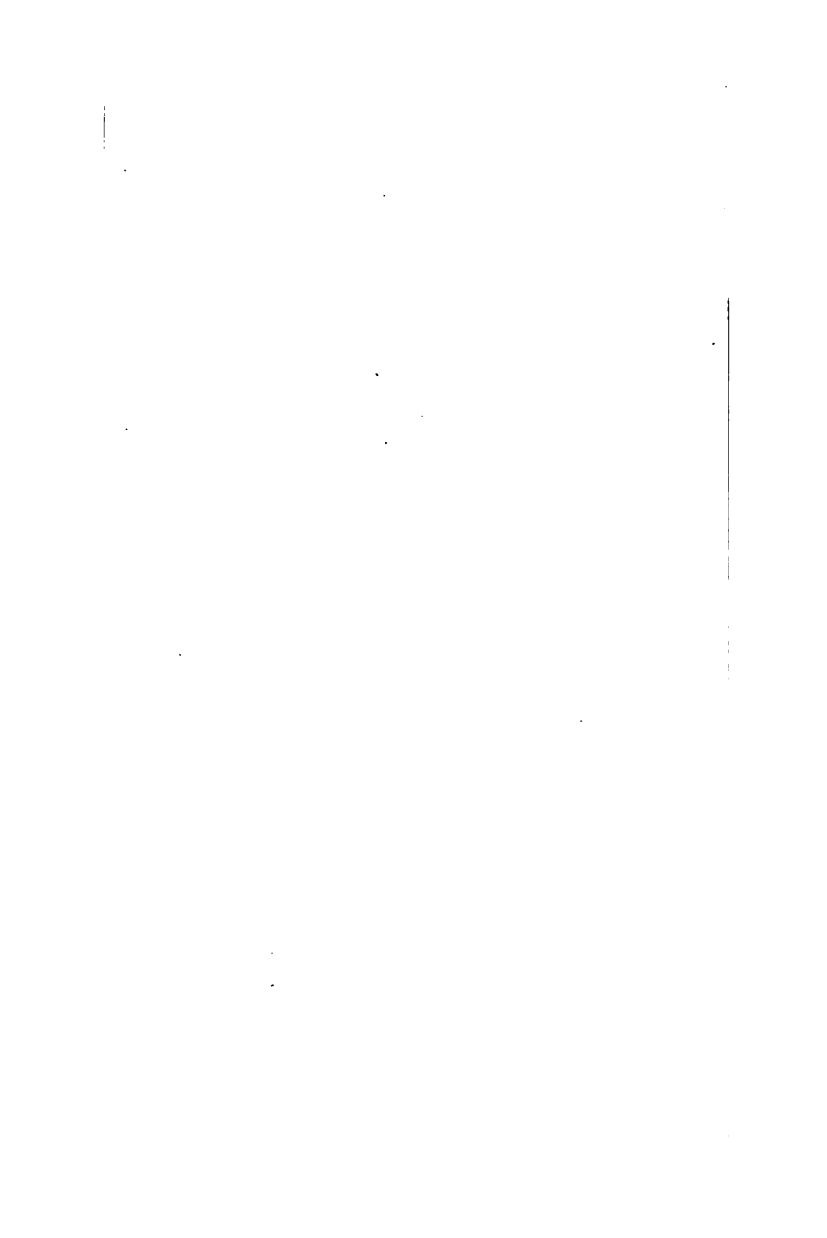
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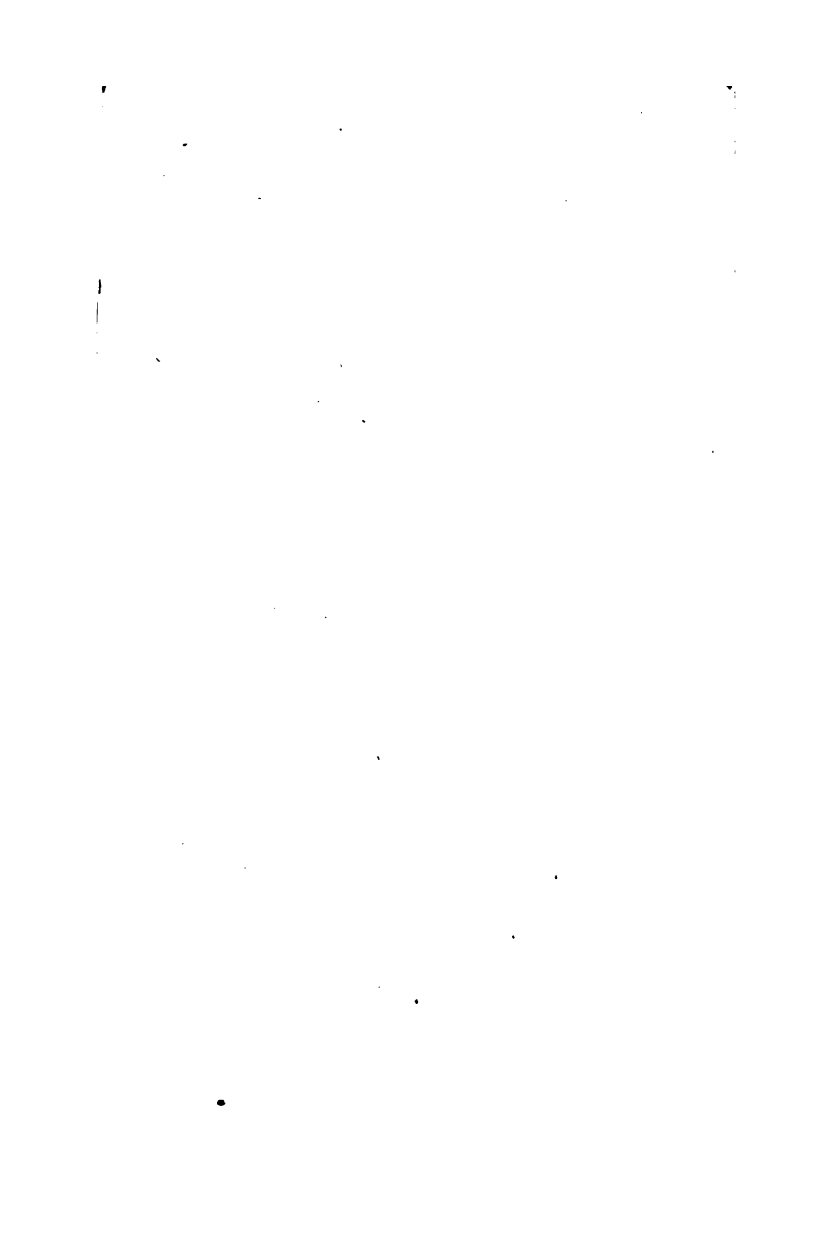
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The first of these is the fact that the
 government has been unable to
 maintain a stable currency. This
 has led to a loss of confidence
 in the government and a
 consequent loss of support
 from the people. The second
 is the fact that the government
 has been unable to maintain
 a stable economy. This has
 led to a loss of confidence
 in the government and a
 consequent loss of support
 from the people. The third
 is the fact that the government
 has been unable to maintain
 a stable society. This has
 led to a loss of confidence
 in the government and a
 consequent loss of support
 from the people.

39. 250









THE
ALTAR OF INCENSE:

OR,

EVERY DAY SANCTIFIED

BY THE

WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER.



And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. *Rev. viii. 3, 4.*

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TO THE
REV. THOMAS DALE,
WHOSE PASTORAL MINISTRATIONS HAVE LINKED TOGETHER
THE SANCTUARY AND THE CLOSET,
THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER,
THIS LITTLE VOLUME
IS INSCRIBED,
AS A SLIGHT TESTIMONY OF
MOST RESPECTFUL AND AFFECTIONATE ESTEEM,
AND IN
GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF BENEFITS RECEIVED
THROUGH HIS INSTRUMENTALITY.



P R E F A C E.

THE Preface to an anonymous publication is so generally found an uninteresting appendage, that none would be prefixed to the present little Manual, did not its proposed design seem to call for a brief explanation.

There are probably few members of the great household of faith, who may be disposed statedly to adopt any pre-composed prayers, in those moments of sacred retirement, when, withdrawing both from the world and from the Church, each becomes personally conscious both of bitterness and of joys, with which a stranger would vainly seek to intermeddle. The unstudied outpourings of the heart, at such times, before Him, who alone can have access to all its secret chambers of imagery, would be felt to be ill-exchanged even for *those* forms of worship, which in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation

of thousands on thousands, through successive generations, have found to bring with them a fullness of blessing.

Yet since, "as in water, face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man," there is a probability of that which experience has proved greatly beneficial to one, presenting itself with advantage to others, who are partakers of the same conflict, and heirs of the same promises. It is chiefly as the illustration of a plan, open to various modifications, but which has more than realized the expectation of personal benefit with which alone it was entered upon, that the actual result of its regular pursuance for a year is now offered to others.

This plan is simply the selection of passages of Scripture, as subjects of daily thought, *with an express view to each being moulded into some specific prayer at the close of the day.*

The advantage of such a literal union of the Word of God and prayer, will, it is believed, be felt quite as much in the needful preparation of the heart, as in the act of prayer itself. Not only will the personal application of the sacred text cease to be lost, as it too often is, in vague generalities; but the very effort sometimes required to elicit from it any one distinct and profitable idea, may recal the mind to it again and again, during such casual and scattered intervals of leisure, as most days will present. The hour given to any merely mechani-

cal occupation; the solitary walk; nay, even the isolated moments of silence and inaction, when waiting the attendance or companionship of others (those 'shreds of time,' so often yielded without compunction to the nothingness of this world's vanities,) may thus be happily transformed into little "seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." Nor will this be its only probable benefit. Many a passage likely to have been otherwise lightly dismissed, as unsuited to our own times or circumstances, will by a careful, prayerful examination of its context and bearing, and a comparison of Scripture with Scripture, prove to contain a message from God to ourselves, as well as others; the germ of holy thought and meditative prayer: and this, without hazarding any forced or fanciful interpretation of the sacred text. Blessed lessons, not a few, were graciously written aforetime for our learning, in characters so legible, that "he who runs may read;" inexhaustible treasures of wisdom and knowledge, to which we continually resort. But to how many others, equally with these given by inspiration of God, and therefore, unquestionably designed to be profitable, do the sanctuary and the closet alike bear witness, that as far as regards personal benefit, they avail us nothing. We taste with joy and thankfulness the clear flowing "brook by the way:" but we pass unconsciously, only because unheedfully, the "sealed fountain" in the desert, from whence, had we known and asked it, the same refreshment of the water of life, might have been dispensed to our thirsting souls. Might

but our eyes be opened, as those of the fainting Hagar, in the wilderness of Beersheba; and where we had imagined ourselves surrounded only by pits without water, would our spiritual senses be gladdened by rills of comfort, or wells of salvation.

A selection of subjects, far from being so exclusively practical, experimental, or devotional, as would be most manifestly suited for private meditation, the foregoing remarks will partially explain: while there will be a few readers, who will further trace, in the course of daily texts, the record of a series of Sabbath ministrations; in which, while a faithful and beloved pastor, now removed from among them, sought to divide to each of his flock a portion of meat in his season, those who had been truly taught "to hunger and thirst after righteousness" were by all, in turn, nourished up unto life eternal. The omission of several courses of lectures, and the first entry only of many texts which formed the basis of more than one sermon, were necessary to reduce the number to the exact limits required. The series is otherwise complete. The general outline of the discourse, or some one prominent and striking idea in it, has been gladly retained and embodied wherever it was found practicable: but in the majority of cases, this was, from various causes, beyond the writer's power; and all that could be attempted was to preserve some agreement with the usual tone and character of instructions, which were deservedly valued, as they were greatly blessed.

It is hoped that in no case has anything been expressed contrary to this, either in doctrine or spirit; but should any deem otherwise, it can be scarcely necessary to say that the error is attributable wholly to the learner, and in no degree to the instructor.

It remains but to commend the little volume, with all the imperfections of which the writer is unaffectedly conscious, to the Divine blessing: praying that He who often sees good to honor the weak things of this world by employing them in His own service, may deign thus to accept this feeble effort to promote the sanctification of every day by His own word and prayer: that "sure and tried word," which "abideth for ever;" that inwrought fervent prayer, which every believer can gratefully testify, "availeth much."

READING—MEDITATION—PRAYER.

“ Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.”

“ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, oh Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”

“ Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense ; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

THE
ALTAR OF INCENSE;
OR,
EVERY DAY SANCTIFIED BY THE
WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER.

JANUARY.

1st.

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.

1 *Pei.* iv. 11.

OH Thou unchangeable JEHOVAH, whom passing years and generations leave ever the same, we bless Thee, that Thy *word* also is for ever settled in heaven : and we pray that not only the appointed stewards of Thy mysteries, but also all of us Thy people may habitually keep in view the duty of speaking as the oracles of God ; that so all our speech may be with grace, through him who spake as never man spake, Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

2nd.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, &c. 2 Tim. iv. 6-8.

O Lord the righteous Judge, who hast of Thine unmerited goodness, laid up against the great day, crowns of righteousness, glory, and life, for all those whom Thou first teachest to love Thine appearing; we pray Thee to arm and strengthen us to fight the good fight of faith, and to hold fast that Thou hast given us: that so, though we know not how near we stand to *that day*, or to the time of our own departure, we may be daily fulfilling and finishing our course, and thus being always ready, may always rejoice in hope of thy glory. Amen.

3rd.

Now when He had left speaking, He said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

Luke v. 4.

Oh 'Thou who placest us all for a time, in this world's great deep of sin and iniquity; silence, we pray Thee the doubtings, and overcome the shrinkings, that hinder our *all* being before Thee as fishers of men. Oh make us wise to win souls, ever ready at Thy command, to launch forth, and in thy strength to let down the net; looking amidst the toils of the night, to that bright and coming morning, which shall reveal a multitude that no man can number, all saved through Thy blessing on the feebleness of human agency, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

4th.

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. *James v. 16.*

Bestow, we beseech Thee, most gracious Lord, on all of us who are bound together in the holy fellowship of Christ's religion, such a sense of our common need of Thy spiritual healing, as may prepare us humbly to confess our own faults, and meekly to restore such as we see overtaken in a fault: and by *inwrought*, fervent prayer, for ourselves and each other, may we draw down blessings which avail much, and rejoice, both in the communion of saints, and the forgiveness of sins, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

5th.

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body, which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. *Luke xxii. 19.*

Blessed Saviour, who didst so wonderfully remember us in our low estate of sin and misery; let not our remembrance of Thee be restricted to the times of commemorating Thy love in the holy ordinance of Thine own appointment: but may every participation in these holy mysteries, send us back to our daily occupations, with Thy love more deeply engraven on our hearts; that so our remembrance may be personal, practical, exclusive, and permanent, to the praise and glory of Thy name. Amen.

6th.

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof. *Rom. xiii. 14.*

Oh Lord Jesu Christ, without whom we can neither refuse the evil nor choose the good, keep us, we pray Thee, from any approach to the sin of making undue provision for the flesh: and being stripped of all that is our own, do Thou enable us to put on Thy finished and all-sufficient righteousness, as all that we can need either for justification or sanctification, seeking to prove ourselves accepted in the Beloved, by a life consistent with Thy holy salvation. Amen.

7th.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Rom. vi. 23.*

Oh Lord our God, we must confess with shame, that we have not only been unprofitable servants unto Thee, but have so sold ourselves to be the servants of sin, as to earn to ourselves the awful wages of eternal death. But since Thou hast redeemed us from death and destruction, with the precious blood of Christ, Oh help us thankfully to receive the benefit, and to live to Thy praise here, in joyful hope of Thy free gift of eternal life hereafter, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

8th.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you. 1 *Pet.* v. 6, 7.

Oh Thou who resistest the proud and givest grace unto the humble; may we be kept humble as well by the sense of Thy condescending care, as by that of the mightiness of Thy hand: and knowing that Thou carest for us, utterly mean and worthless as we are, may we at the same time thankfully cast all our cares on Thee, and bow down with true penitent hearts, looking to Thee in due time to exalt us, in and through thy blessed Son our Lord. Amen.

9th.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. *John* xii. 48.

Oh Thou who, when thou camest into the world, not to judge the world, but to save the world, wast despised and rejected of men; we bless Thee for having given us power to receive that word of Thine, by which all shall be judged at the last day. We pray to have it more deeply imprinted on our hearts, and more brightly reflected from our lives, and beseech Thee continually to add to the number of those to whom it shall prove a savour, not of death unto death, but of life unto life, for Thy great name's sake. Amen.

10th.

Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.

1 Cor. x. 12.

Oh Almighty Lord, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves, grant that we may see and feel it also: that so, while taking good heed to our ways, according to Thy word, we may never think of standing but by the might of Thy Spirit within us; nor ever expect to be kept from falling, but as Thou holdest up our goings in Thy paths, that our footsteps should not slip. Hear us, O Lord, and answer us, in this and all our petitions, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

11th.

It is written, My house is the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves. And he taught daily in the temple.

Luke xix. 46, 47.

Oh Thou who, when on earth didst daily *teach* in the temple, and also declare that Thy house should be the house of prayer; may we gladly resort thither in the spirit of prayer, and with the desire for instruction, loving the habitation of Thy house, and there seeing something of Thy power and glory; and may all the services of the sanctuary yield fruits of holiness in the world, to the praise and glory of Thy name, and to our eternal benefit, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

12th.

What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. *Psa. cxvi. 12, 13.*

Father of mercies, give us, we pray Thee, a deeper sense of Thine unbounded and unceasing benefits towards us: and fill our souls especially with such a view of the love shewn us in Thy one unspeakable gift, as may constrain us, from day to day, to ask with adoring gratitude, What shall we render unto the Lord; and lead us joyfully to take the cup of salvation, and call upon Thy name, as the God who daily loadeth us with benefits, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

13th.

So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do. *Luke xvii. 10.*

Oh holy Lord, in whose sight the very heavens are not clean, and who chargest Thine angels with folly, our goodness can never indeed extend to Thee. Yet while confessing ourselves at the best but unprofitable servants, may it be our constant and diligent aim to do all those things which Thy command has rendered our duty, that so we may escape the condemnation of the *unfaithful* servant; and finally, by Thy mercy, may attain everlasting life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

14th.

Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in *them*, and be clean?
2 Kings v. 12.

Oh God, the God of Israel, give us grace to renounce every lingering or latent hope of salvation, connected with any Abana or Pharpar which our vain hearts may have pictured as better than those waters which *Thou* hast appointed for the healing of the nations. To them and them only may we humbly, thankfully, and continually resort, and there may the deadly leprosy of sin be cleansed, that so we may be washed, and sanctified, and justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Amen.

15th.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, By whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. *Gal. vi. 14.*

Oh Lord, who knowest we have nothing of our own to glory in, forbid it that we should cling to any of the false glories either of the world or of the flesh. But lying humbly at the foot of the cross, may we be strengthened to crucify the flesh; and by Him who died on it for our sakes, may the world be crucified to us, and we to the world. Thus may we willingly bear the reproach of Christ now, and suffer with Him, at Thy bidding; hoping, though utterly unworthy, to share the glories of His eternal kingdom, world without end. Amen.

16th.

Glory ye in His holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. *Psa. cv. 3.*

Oh God of glory, who alone doest wonders, help us more worthily to praise and magnify Thy great name, for all thy wonderful works in nature, in providence, and in grace. And since we have Thine own gracious promise, that those who seek shall find, grant that seeking, as lost sinners, to Thee as the God of salvation, and our reconciled God and Father in Christ Jesus, our hearts may rejoice, and our lips glory, in these Thy great and precious names, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

17th.

It is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you. *Gal. iv. 18.*

Heavenly Father, we may well take shame to ourselves, that we are not more steadily as well as zealously affected to those good things which Thou hast either revealed to us, or required of us. Oh free us from all undue reliance on human agency, or influence, or companionship: and whether earthly Teachers are present, or absent, may Thy Spirit keep ever alive our zeal for Thee, and love to the souls of men, for Christ's sake. Amen.

18th.

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, &c. *Acts xxvi. 18.*

Oh Thou who alone canst open the blind eyes to the things belonging to their everlasting peace; increase, we pray Thee, our spiritual light: turn us more completely from the power of Satan to Thyself, the living God: grant us daily forgiveness of our daily sins: sanctify our hearts by faith: and thus prepare us for the inheritance Thou hast, of Thine infinite mercy prepared for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and only Saviour. Amen.

19th.

The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. *1 Pet. iv. 7.*

Oh Thou who art the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, we know not how near to us may be the end of all things: but we pray Thee that every passing day, as it brings us assuredly nearer to it, may find us diligently preparing for it; that in the spirit of Christian soberness, watchfulness, and prayer, we may be numbered with those who love and wait for the appearing of their Lord, with their loins girt, and their lights burning. Hear us and answer us for His sake. Amen.

20th.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick? &c. *Matt. v. 14, 15.*

Oh Lord, who callest Thy church collectively to be the light of the world, give grace to each member of it individually to arise and shine; that so every ray of light shed abroad in our own hearts from the Sun of righteousness, may be reflected on the domestic and social circles in which Thou hast placed us; and that every congregation of Thy faithful people may be as a city set on an hill, the light of which shall constrain all who see it to glorify Thy holy name, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

21st.

And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. *Matt. viii. 26.*

Gracious Saviour, who knowest why we are so often fearful, even because of our little faith; and at whose word the raging storm becomes a great calm: subdue, we pray Thee, all the risings of unbelief in our hearts; and rebuke the winds and waves of temptation; that amidst all changes and all perils, we may enjoy the peace which springs from knowing Thou art ever nigh, able, and willing, and waiting to save, now and ever. Amen.

22nd.

Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto Thee. For Thou hast delivered my soul from death; wilt not Thou deliver my feet from falling? *Psa. lvi. 12, 13.*

Oh Thou Most High, from whom alone cometh help, and hope, and salvation; Thine infinite mercy has, we trust, delivered our souls from death: and now we need, and supplicate that same mercy, to deliver our feet from falling, and to keep us ever walking before Thee in the light of the living. Oh may we remember the solemn vows that are upon us; and though it is but of Thine own that we can ever bring to Thee, yet may we daily render Thee heartfelt praise, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

23rd.

When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. *Isa. lix. 19.*

Oh thou Spirit of all power and might, who alone canst lift up an effectual standard against the many and mighty foes that beset us round; leave us not to contend with any of them in our own strength; but when temptation, or affliction, or death, is permitted to come in like a flood, do Thou bear us safely through it, and at last make us more than conquerors over every enemy, through Him who hath loved us. Amen.

24th.

Then said Jesus unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you,
That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.
Matt. xix. 23.

Oh Thou who becamest poor to make many rich, not towards men, but towards God ; make us thankful if in this world thou hast given us neither poverty nor riches. Keep us from inordinately desiring *any* of the good things of this transitory life, and make it our supreme desire to use them all as not abusing them, that so we may in Thy good time, not *hardly* but *surely* enter the kingdom of heaven, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

25th.

I spake unto thee in thy prosperity ; but thou saidst, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeydst not my voice. *Jer. xxii. 21.*

Oh Lord our God, remember not against us, we beseech Thee, the sins of our manner in our youth, nor the times when Thou spakest unto us in our prosperity, and we would neither hear nor obey thy voice. Oh that henceforth, whether Thou speak by the thunder of Thy judgments, or by the still small voice of love and mercy through thy Son, the humble reply of our souls may ever be, " Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Grant it, we pray Thee, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

26th.

And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, &c. *Matt. xxvi. 39.*

Heavenly Father, who for our sakes, didst give to Thy beloved and only begotten Son, a cup of agony more bitter than man's heart can conceive, Oh grant that we may both copy His life, and live by His death. May every sorrow stir us up to greater earnestness of prayer to Thee, with whom all things are possible; and in the utmost extremity, though the promised deliverance tarry, give us grace still to say, Nevertheless, not as we will, but as Thou wilt. Hear us for his sake, whom Thou hearest always. Amen.

27th.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed, &c. *John viii. 31, 32.*

Oh Thou in whom we trust we do believe, may we prove ourselves Thy disciples indeed, by steadfast continuance in Thy word, by increasing knowledge of Thy truth, and by a growing sense of the privilege of being by it made free from the bondage of sin, and brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Thus may we be approved to Thee, to our fellow-creatures, and to our own consciences, now and for ever. Amen.

28th.

What think ye of Christ? *Matt. xxii. 40.*

Oh Lord, who seest about how many things we are often careful and troubled; grant that henceforth, in the multitude of our thoughts within us, Christ and His salvation may be the subject nearest to our hearts: that we may think of Him, as our only and all-sufficient Saviour, our perfect example, and as the chief among ten thousand, and altogether lovely, for whom we bless Thee, and to whom, with Thyself, oh holy Father, and the Spirit of all grace, be endless praises. Amen.

29th.

Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. *John vi. 67, 68.*

Gracious Saviour, who alone hast the words of eternal life, we feel and confess ourselves prone to wander, and bent to back-slide, even as others. Oh grant that the same grace which first found us afar off, and brought us nigh, may so bind our wandering hearts, that we never more, either in thought or life, go away, or seem to do so: but may follow Thee fully now, and be found complete in Thee at last, for Thy great name and mercy's sake. Amen.

30th.

Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. *Rom. xv. 4.*

Blessed Lord, who didst inspire and hast preserved to us all those things that were written afore time for our learning in Thy sacred Scriptures; open, we pray Thee, our understandings and our hearts fully and rightly to receive them. Give us patience to continue in all Thy word, to endure all Thy will, and to wait for all Thy promises: and so doing, may we find present and abiding comfort in Thy revelation of Thyself to poor sinners, and derive from it a hope that can never make ashamed, but is full of immortality, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

31st.

Put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, &c. *Eph. v. 22, 24.*

We bless Thee, oh Lord, that Thou hast shewn us so much of the corruption and deceitfulness of our former conversation, as to make us desire altogether to put it off: and we pray Thee, by the indwelling of Thy Spirit, so to renew us in the whole spirit of our mind, that we may prove ourselves to have been born of God, by the righteousness and true holiness that belong to those who are made new creatures in Christ Jesus. We ask it for His sake. Amen.

FEBRUARY.

1st.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said unto the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. &c. *Dan. iii. 17, 18, 19.*

Oh thou King of kings, who wilt ever save and defend Thy people, keep us like Thy servants of old, faithful to Thee in heart, in tongue, and in life; resolved that whatever others do, we will through Thy grace assisting us, glorify Thy holy name. And if Thou see fit to place us, as Thou didst them, in a fiery furnace of affliction, oh be Thou still by and with us, and bring us out of it in due time, purified as gold seven times; that so, following the great Captain of our salvation, we may at the last with Him be made for ever perfect through suffering. Amen.

2nd.

If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. *John iii. 20, 21.*

Oh Thou who art greater than our hearts and knowest all things, we can indeed apply faithfully to them no test of our being Thine, by which they must not, in some grievous and humbling measure, condemn us. Yet we pray for the conscious existence and growth of that spirit of Christian love, which by nature we cannot have, and which may give us the confidence of Thine adopted children; and oh do Thou daily conform us more to His image, whose love passeth knowledge, and in whom alone we can be justified or saved. Amen.

3rd.

And he saith unto him, Friend how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? and he was speechless. *Matt. xxii. 12.*

Gracious Lord, who invitest poor sinners to the marriage supper of the Lamb, we pray Thee *also* to make us *meet* for it: and since we have nothing of our own in which to appear, oh do Thou clothe us in the pure white raiment which is the righteousness of the saints; yea, cast around us the rich robe of our Saviour's righteousness, as that wedding garment which can alone insure our admittance among Thy joyful guests for ever. Amen.

4th.

For there is no respect of persons with God. *Rom. ii. 11.*

We bless Thee, oh Lord, for thy gracious and repeated declaration, that there is no respect of persons with Thee; but that *all* are alike accepted of Thee, being made *one* in Christ Jesus. Keep us, we pray Thee, from attaching undue importance to any external distinctions or observances; and make it our earnest desire, first to improve rightly our own abounding privileges, and then to see those same privileges extended to those who are yet destitute of them, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

5th.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. *Eph. vi. 10.*

Almighty Lord, who alone hast power, and who art ever ready to impart Thy strength to such as feel their own to be but weakness; we pray Thee so to strengthen us with might by Thy Spirit within us, that we may fight boldly and manfully the good fight of faith, being armed with Thy whole armour; and amidst our own helplessness, and our many and great dangers, being ever strong in Thee, and in the power of Thy might, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

6th.

Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: &c. *Mat. xiii. 30.*

Oh Thou whose inscrutable wisdom ordains that both tares and wheat shall grow together in the field of this world until the harvest; grant, that while satisfied with this Thy appointment, we may be kept ever mindful of that coming day; and use all diligence, that we ourselves, and many others, through Thy blessing on our feeble efforts, may then surely and safely be gathered with the wheat into Thy barn, instead of being bound in bundles to be burned. Hear and answer us for Jesus' sake, Amen.

7th.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much : and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful, &c. *Luke xvi. 10, 11, 12.*

Oh Lord, by whom alone we are put in trust of all that we have ; we must confess and deplore our imperfect faithfulness, even in that which is least. But since Thou hast notwithstanding committed to our trust the true riches, Oh give us, with them, and with all, the practical conviction of our being called to be good stewards of thy manifold grace : that we may so speak, and think, and do, as at last to be able to give in our account with joy, and not with grief, through Christ Jesus, Amen.

8th.

The Lord is at hand. *Phil. iv. 5.*

Oh Lord Jesu Christ, it is not for us to know the times or the seasons : but since we *do* know the certainty of Thy second glorious coming, grant that the expectation of it may moderate all our cares for this present life, and keep us ever walking as those who feel that their Lord is at hand. And we pray that whether coming to *us* on earth, or calling us to *Thee* in heaven, our joyful answer to Thy summons may be the same :—Even so come. Lord Jesus, Amen.

9th.

He that winneth souls is wise. *Prov. xi. 30.*

Pardon, oh Lord, we pray Thee, our hitherto inadequate sense of the value of souls, which Thou hast redeemed at so inestimable a price. Humble us on account of all the sins, negligences, and ignorances, that have prevented our winning them as we might have done unto Thee; open now our lips to warn and invite perishing sinners; and may our lives so exhibit those things which are lovely and of good report, that we may wisely and gently win them to Thee, to holiness, and to happiness, through Christ Jesus, Amen.

10th.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. *1 Tim. i. 15.*

Oh Thou whose faithful word of salvation to lost sinners, through Him who died for them, is indeed worthy of all acceptance; have mercy on all those who madly reject or despise it, and bring them yet nigh unto Thyself through the blood of the Lamb: and grant that under a growing sense of our own personal guilt and misery, we may all cling more and more closely to the cross of Him who came into the world to save sinners, even the chief. We ask it for His sake, Amen.

11th.

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory; Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. *1 Pet. i. 8, 9.*

Blessed Saviour, whom we love because Thou first lovedst us; we pray Thee to bestow on us the blessing of those who see not, yet both believe and love. Oh strengthen our faith, and increase our love to Thee, as the Author of eternal salvation to our souls; and even in this land of shadows, do Thou grant us some foretastes of that joy unspeakable and full of glory, which, through Thy grace, we hope to enjoy, when we at last fully receive the end of our faith, in Thy glorious and everlasting kingdom. Amen.

12th.

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him; Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. *John v. 14.*

Oh Thou who alone canst make us whole of whatsoever disease we have, whether bodily or spiritual; grant that every fresh proof of Thy healing mercy may lead us both to hearty repentance of that sin which is the bitter root of all suffering, and also to holy purposes, in Thy strength, and not our own, of sinning no more. Oh may we be found, both in the Church and in the world, praising Thee for the past, and trusting Thee for the future, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

13th.

And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

Jonah iii. 4.

Oh Thou who, though a God of judgment, yet delightest in mercy, and art ever waiting to be gracious ; let the contemplation of Thy dealings with Nineveh of old, stimulate us to such conduct towards all the multitude of sinners around us, as Thou mayest approve. Let us not cease to warn and beseech them to turn and repent before the awful day of final overthrow comes upon them ; that so we may all at last rejoice together before our long-suffering God, through Jesus our great Advocate and Intercessor. Amen.

14th.

And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them, &c. *Numb. xvi. 46.*

Holy and righteous Lord, whose wrath is revealed from Heaven, against all the ungodliness of men ; it is indeed of Thy mercy that we sinners are not consumed ; and because Thou hast Thyself found an atoning ransom for us. Oh that while the plague of sin rages as fearfully around us as if it had but now begun its ravages, we may be ever ready to go quickly, at Thy word, to the sinners, and to plead with them and for them before Thee, that Thy hand may be stayed, and that they may be spared through our Atoning Mediator. Amen.

15th.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth, &c. *Jer. xxiii. 5, 6.*

Oh Thou the righteous Branch, the root and offspring of David, whose day of glorious power is surely coming; keep us ever watching, waiting, and praying for the full and final establishment of Thy Kingdom in the earth. May we earnestly desire the salvation and consolation of Thine ancient Israel, as well as the joy in Thee of Thine elect, throughout the whole Gentile world; and may we individually and collectively rejoice in Thee as the Lord our Righteousness, our King, our Governor, and our Saviour, for ever and ever. Amen.

16th.

He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death. *Psaln lxxviii. 20.*

Oh God of the spirits of all flesh, with whom are the issues of life and death, we would humbly rejoice in Thee as *our* God, and the God of salvation. Oh that hoping, through Thy grace, to be delivered from spiritual and eternal death, Thou wouldest so over-rule all our earthly course, as that it may prepare us to pass safely and peacefully through the gates of temporal death, to the life everlasting of Thy heavenly Kingdom, through Him who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light, even Christ our Lord. Amen.

17th.

Peter therefore was kept in prison ; but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. *Acts xii. 5.*

Oh Thou who alone art the Inspirer, the Hearer, and the Answerer of prayer, help us, in all our troubles, to look to Thee to save us : under all our discouragements, to cast our burden on Thee : and if personal or relative affliction seem long or hopeless, may we remember the case of Thy holy Apostle ; and in every thing have recourse still to instant and earnest prayer ; resolved, though the promise tarry, to wait for it ; and confident that the prayers of Thy Church shall, in Thine own good time, receive full answers of peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

18th.

If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. *1 Thess. iv. 14.*

Oh Thou whom we *believe* and *know* to be Thyself the Resurrection and the Life ; help us to look upon death without alarm, as a peaceful sleeping in Jesus ; and when called to part, at Thy word, with the beloved companions of our pilgrimage, keep us from sorrowing as those who have no hope ; and sustain and cheer us with the blessed anticipation of that day, when those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, and if united to Thee by a living faith on earth, shall with us share Thy glory for ever. Amen.

19th.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. *Heb. vii. 25.*

Blessed Jesus, whose power and whose willingness to save, alike extend even to the uttermost, and who ever liveth to make intercession for those who come to the Father *by Thee*; help us thus, and thus alone, to approach the Divine footstool, pleading no other name, and no other merit; teach us to rejoice more habitually and fervently in Thy continual intercession; and give us grace to trust Thee evermore, for time and for eternity, for Thine own great name and mercy's sake. Amen.

20th.

When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. *Luke xxi. 28.*

Oh Thou whose coming again with power and great glory must bring distress, perplexity, and terror, to all but those who in faith and patience possess their souls; we beseech Thee so to rule and regulate our hearts and lives, that watching and praying always, we may be prepared then to look up and lift up our heads with humble confidence, assured that its approach shall be to us the drawing nigh of our final redemption, and that being one with Thee, we shall in Thee be accounted worthy to escape all those things that shall come to pass, and to stand before Thee for ever. Amen.

21st.

Now the just shall live by faith : but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition? &c. *Heb. x. 38, 39.*

Oh Lord, who hast called us by Thy grace, through faith in thy Son, and by whose grace alone it is also that we can obey Thy call : without Thy continual help, our evil and deceitful hearts would yet madly draw back unto perdition. Oh do Thou keep us ever following hard after Thee, that we may believe to the saving of the soul ; and daily take from those in whose present ways thou canst have no pleasure, and add them to the number of the just who shall live by faith, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

22nd.

Who when he came and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. *Acts xi. 23.*

Pour forth, oh blessed Lord, we beseech Thee, on Thy whole Church universal, more of the spirit of unity and godly love : that so every manifestation of Thy grace to others, may be a personal incitement to holy gladness ; and that by mutual exhortation and christian communion, we may be made helpers of each other's faith and joy, and may stir each other up with more and more purpose of heart, to cleave unto Thee, through all temptations and trials, even to the end, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

23rd.

On that day the Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life. *Josh. iv. 14.*

Deliver us, oh God, we pray Thee, from every lurking lingering desire to be magnified with the honor that cometh from men: and make it the single and growing aim of our inmost souls, that *Thy grace* may be magnified both in us and by us. May we faithfully employ any measure of influence or favor Thou givest us in the sight of others, altogether to thy glory; and not unduly regarding the person of any, may we honor all those who are set over us in the Lord, in Thee and for Thee, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

24th.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, &c. *1 Cor. iv. 17, 18.*

Oh Lord, we pray Thee so to lift up our hearts from things seen and temporal, to those not seen and eternal, that every affliction Thou seest good to appoint for us, may be viewed as light, and but for a moment, and not only be endured with cheerful resignation, but in due time work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, through the great Captain of our salvation, who was Himself made perfect through sufferings, and whose faithful, though unworthy followers, we would be, now and for ever. Amen.

25th.

'Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. *Psalm xcii.* 13.

We bless Thee, oh Lord our God, that Thou hast not left us like the heath in the desert, that seeth not when good cometh, but hast graciously planted us in Thy house. Oh do thou there water us continually with the dew of Thy blessing, and make us fruitful in every good word and work, to the glory of Thy name; till, in Thine own good time, Thou transplant us to those glorious Courts above, where not a leaf can wither, but every plant of grace shall flourish before Thee in unfading verdure for ever through Christ Jesus. Amen.

26th.

And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. *Acts xxviii.* 24.

Gracious Lord, we bless Thee for any power we have, believingly to receive those wondrous things of the Gospel, against which the natural man rebels. Oh may the light of Thy truth be more and more richly shed abroad in our hearts; and seeing those all around who believe not unto salvation, may we be ever ready, according to the measure of grace given us, to testify and to persuade, earnestly desiring that all may be saved through Him in whom alone is all our hope, Jesus our blessed Lord. Amen.

27th.

Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Gal. iii. 26.

Heavenly Father, help us worthily to praise Thee, that Thy holy law, while concluding us all *under sin*, condemns us not to its just punishment; but only, as our School-master, brings us to Christ. Oh that by a true and lively faith in Him, we may indeed be numbered among Thy reconciled children, renouncing all other ground of dependence, and rejoicing in the glorious privilege of adoption into Thy family, only by faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

28th.

As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. *John i. 12.*

Oh Thou whom we should never have received, hadst not Thou first imparted to us the precious gift of faith, we pray Thee still to add, day by day, to its power in our hearts: that rejoicing in the blood-bought privilege of becoming children of God, we may be indeed followers of God, as *dear* children, not fashioning ourselves in any respects as in the days of our ignorance, but diligently and prayerfully striving to shew forth Thy praise, now, henceforth, and for ever. Amen.

29th.

For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord. *Luke ii. 11.*

Oh Thou, who though Lord of angels and of men, didst condescend to be born in the City of David, a feeble infant; help us to realize the grace and the glory of the names Thou then tookest upon Thee. Oh may thy coming thus in great humility be indeed made unto *us* good tidings of great joy, by our thankful acceptance of Thy free salvation: and taking Thee as Jesus *our* Saviour, and Christ *our* Lord, may we in serving Thee on earth, be daily preparing to join the multitude of the heavenly host in praising Thee above, for ever and ever. Amen.

MARCH.

1st.

Take fast hold of instruction ; let her not go : keep her ; for she is thy life. *Prov. iv. 13.*

Oh Lord, Thou knowest our foolishness ; our need of instruction ; yet our proneness to let go that which is truly and emphatically our *life*. Oh give us grace to keep in our minds and hearts every word of Thine ; to take fast hold on all Thou teachest us, lest at any time we should let it slip : and may Thy Holy Spirit so be our Instructor in all things, that we may walk steadily and joyfully in the light of Thy truth, as His followers who is Himself, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, evermore. Amen.

2nd.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
Col. iii. 17.

Holy Father, we have to mourn our utter inability to do or say anything as of ourselves, right and acceptable in Thy sight. Oh grant that under heart-felt conviction of this, whatsoever we do in word or deed may henceforth be all done in the name of the Lord Jesus, and in dependence on the offered grace and strength of His Spirit : and that while daily receiving out of His fulness, we may also be daily giving thanks unto Thee our God and Father by Him. Amen.

3rd.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, &c. *2 Tim.* iii. 16, 17.

Blessed be thy name, O Lord, for the rich treasure Thou hast given us in Thy Holy Scriptures of truth. May we, in child-like humility receive *all* scripture as "God-inspired." May we look to it, and search it, for doctrine, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness: and through its application to our hearts and consciences by Thy Holy Spirit, may we be more and more thoroughly furnished unto all good works, and continually tending towards the perfection of the Christian character, till at last made complete in Christ Jesus. Amen.

4th.

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter i. 4.

Gracious Lord, who knowest all the corruption of the world, and of our too-worldly hearts; we bless Thee for those exceeding great and precious promises, by which we may yet escape the ruin of the human nature, and even be made partakers of that which is divine. Oh do Thou open our eyes to see, our understandings to receive, and our hearts to rejoice in them; thus working in us, day by day, that wondrous transformation, which shall at last meeten us for the inheritance of the saints in light, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

5th.

I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not; I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name. *Isa. lxx. 1.*

Oh Thou whom, so far from seeking or asking for, we so long refused to hear, when Thou saidst to us, Behold me, behold me: We bless Thee for overcoming at length the enmity of our carnal hearts, and shewing it to us as our highest honor to be called by Thy name. Oh give us grace to walk worthy of such a name as that of Thy people; and if it please Thee, not only keep us stedfast ourselves in Thy faith and fear, but use also our humble instrumentality to bring others to share our privileges, for Thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

6th.

Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. *Heb. iv. 1.*

Blessed Lord, who hast revealed to us the great and precious promise of a rest remaining for thy people; grant that our hope of attaining to it may be coupled with a godly fear, lest we should even *seem* to come short of it. May we fear the doom of thine ancient people, who entered not in, because of unbelief; and walking ourselves by faith, may diligence and constancy in Thy *work*, be our preparation for a joyful entrance into Thy *rest*, through Him who has both purchased and prepared it for us. Amen.

7th.

So God created man in his own image ; in the image of God created he him ; male and female created he them. *Gen. i. 27.*

Oh Thou, whose own image, as originally stamped upon us, we have so grievously lost ; raise, we pray Thee, our hearts and hopes to Him who is not only the *image* of the invisible God, but Himself God manifest in the flesh : that in Him, beholding as in a glass Thy glory, we may be daily changed into the same image, renewed in the spirit of our minds, and made altogether new creatures ; and thus through Thy grace, become inheritors of a higher and holier paradise even than our first parents lost, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

8th.

We have thought of Thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of Thy temple. *Psa. xlviii. 9.*

Oh Lord, Thou knowest every occasion on which we have especially thought of, or experienced Thy loving-kindness in the midst of thy temple. Oh may we ever go thither to seek Thy face, and to hear what Thou, the Lord wilt say to us ; and do Thou ever, in that measure Thou knowest to be best for us, yet cause us to see Thy power and glory, so as we have seen them in the sanctuary ; thus granting us on earth a sweet foretaste of the worship of Thy temple above ; whence none go out. Grant it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

9th.

Thou art my hiding-place, and my shield; I hope in Thy word. *Psa. cxix. 114.*

Oh God, who graciously permittest us to call Thee *our* God; grant, we pray Thee, that the sense of unnumbered perils, from which we can in no wise save or defend ourselves, may but drive us nearer to Thee, as our Hiding-place and our Shield. Under the shadow of Thine Almighty wings, may we make our refuge, till all dangers as well as calamities shall be overpast: and on Thy true and tried word may we build our hopes, as on a foundation that cannot be moved, world without end. Amen.

10th.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able: *1 Cor. x. 13.*

Oh Thou our faithful God, suffer us not, we pray Thee, either to look upon any temptation Thou appointest for us, as a *strange* thing, or to doubt the fulfilment of Thine own sure promise, of a way of escape. But whether exposed to the afflictive pressure, or to the seductive power of the temptations common to all, make us alike strong in Thee, and thus able to bear, to resist, and to overcome, till Thou finally deliver us from every danger and every enemy, through Him who, for our sakes once suffered being tempted, and is both able and willing to succour those who are tempted. Amen.

11th.

And he cried, saying, Jesus Thou Son of David, have mercy on me. *Luke xviii. 38.*

Blessed Jesus, who art both David's Son and David's Lord, who knowest all our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking; we beseech Thee to have mercy upon *us*, as upon those of old: to open our eyes more and more to the things which belong to our peace; to keep us from ever looking to any other helper, instead of to Thyself; or from turning aside from Thy guiding, enlightening, and saving mercy; and to help us to follow Thee, glorifying God, both here on earth, and hereafter more fully and joyfully in heaven, for Thy great mercy's sake. Amen.

12th.

And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, &c. *Gen. xix. 29.*

Oh God, the God of judgment, who wilt at the last rain down upon the rejectors of Thy grace, snares, fire, and brimstone, and an horrible tempest; we would plead with Thee now, to save out of that fearful overthrow, not ourselves alone, but also all that are our kindred according to the flesh. Oh forbid it that any of *them* should be of the number for whom it shall be less tolerable in that day than for Sodom and Gomorrah. Graciously remember us and our feeble prayers, as Thou rememberedst Thy servant Abraham of old, and save us all with an everlasting salvation, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

13th.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 1 Cor. xiii. 3.

Oh God of peace and love, who hast shewn to us the excellent way of charity, we pray Thee to keep us from ever substituting aught else in its room; to humble us in our own eyes that we are so deficient in it; and to cause it henceforth to fill all our hearts, breathe in all our words, and regulate all our actions, lest all other gifts and graces should in Thy sight profit nothing. Nor let it ever fail; but may its continual exercise on earth, prepare us for that world above, where it shall still abide and reign for ever through Christ Jesus. Amen.

14th.

And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the Lord: Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, &c. Jer. xxxvi. 5, 6, 7.

Open our ears, Oh Lord, we beseech Thee, to hear and receive *all* Thy word: and whether permitted to go into Thy house of prayer, or in Thy providence, shut up like Thy servant Jeremiah, may the revelation of Thine anger and fury against transgressors stir us up, not only to present our own supplications before Thee, but also to spend and be spent in urging those around us to turn every one from his evil way; that so Thy mercy may rejoice against Thy judgment, in and through the Son of Thy love, the Saviour of sinners. Amen.

15th.

Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God? *Joel ii. 14.*

We rejoice, oh Lord, to think that as none know the power of Thine anger, neither can any tell the boundless extent of Thy mercy. Grant that when Thy judgments are in the earth, we may turn to Thee with all our hearts, and call others to join in deep abasement before Thee; and then to wait in humble quietness and confidence, till Thou see fit to return and repent, and leave a blessing behind Thee. *Then* of Thine own again may we present to Thee as a thank-offering of a willing mind, acceptable to Thee through Christ Jesus. Amen.

16th.

Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. *Psalms cxix. 37.*

Blessed Lord, Thou knowest we have no power of ourselves even to look up above this vain world, much less to arise and walk in Thy holy ways. We beseech Thee first to shew us the worthlessness of those vanities on which our eyes and hearts have been too much set; and then having turned away our eyes from beholding them, to quicken us from our spiritual slumber, sloth, and negligence, that we may run without weariness, and walk without fainting, in the way Thou settest before us, looking ever unto Jesus. Amen.

17th.

And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. And Jesus went into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. *John vi. 2-3.*

Blessed Jesus, we desire to follow Thee, not as do the great multitude in a professedly Christian land, but with the little flock of Thy true disciples. May the contemplation of Thy miracles of mercy on souls that are diseased, constrain us to commit our own souls entirely to Thy care and keeping; and oh make us ready to follow wherever Thou leadest, whether to the mount of joy, or to the valley of humiliation, till Thou call us to sit down with Thee, and rest and rejoice with Thee for ever. Amen.

18th.

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. *1 John v. 12.*

Holy Father, who dost offer to perishing sinners the astonishing gift of eternal life, in and through Thy beloved Son; we beseech Thee to unite our hearts to Him by a true and lively faith. Oh that under the influence of His love shed abroad in our hearts, we may die daily unto sin: and that striving to live to Thee, we may have spiritual and eternal life begun in our souls now, to be fully developed and perfected, when He who has so loved us shall appear again, that we may be made like Him, and see Him as He is, for ever. Amen.

19th.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus : Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God : But made himself of no reputation, &c. *Phil. ii. 5, 6, 7.*

Oh Thou meek and lowly Jesus, who being not only in the form of God, but one with the Father, for our sakes didst make Thyself of no reputation, and take on Thee the form of a servant, and the likeness of men ; send, we pray Thee, Thy Holy Spirit, to subdue all the pride, and vain glory, and selfishness of our corrupt hearts ; till by His indwelling and transforming power, the same mind may at length be found in us which was also in Thee on earth, and which will meeten us for the blessedness of Thine everlasting kingdom above. Amen.

20th.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. *Psal. lxxxiv. 10.*

Oh Lord of Hosts, in whose house above dwell the countless multitude of glorious and unwearied worshippers ; may every day and hour spent even in Thine earthly courts be to us better than a thousand : may no indulgences or enjoyments of the tents of wickedness, ever rival the meanest office of Thy house in our regard : but choosing rather to sit as at Thy threshold, may we there find grace to carry us on from strength to strength, till we all appear before Thee at length in the heavenly Zion, through Him who has opened for us the way into the holiest. Amen.

21st.

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of cross. *Phil. ii. 8.*

Blessed Saviour, who in the time of Thy deep humiliation didst leave us an example that we should follow Thy steps; we implore Thy grace so to do: and as Thou, when found in fashion as a man, didst humble Thyself even to the ignominious death of the cross, may we, Thy feeble followers, become humbly obedient, even unto death, submitting ourselves wholly to Thy holy will and pleasure, and in faith looking for the final accomplishment of that will in our complete salvation, for Thy great mercy's sake. . Amen.

22nd.

Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me. *Psa. lxxix. 15.*

Oh Thou the only helper and deliverer of Thy people, may we flee unto Thee and be safe. We bless Thee for having stretched out Thy hand to save us from the bottomless pit, which must otherwise have shut her mouth upon us; and we beseech Thee still to appear on our behalf, that neither temptation nor affliction, though they should come in like the great water flood, or the raging deep, may overflow or swallow us up, through the fulfilment of Thy gracious and unfailing promises in Jesus the Son of Thy love. Amen.

23rd.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. *Phil. ii. 9, 10, 11.*

Oh Thou whose name is indeed above every name, Christ the Lord, and Jesus the Saviour; fill our souls with such adoring gratitude and love to Thee, that our knees may be ever ready to bow, our tongues to confess, and our whole lives to be one glad thank-offering for Thine unutterable love. Set up Thy throne, we pray Thee, in our hearts, and reign over our every thought, desire, and purpose; and oh hasten the blessed time when Thou shalt be as highly exalted in all the earth, as Thou now art in the heaven above. Amen.

24th.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.
Phil. i. 6.

Blessed be Thy name, oh Lord, for any ground of confidence that Thou hast begun in us that good work which Thou never leavest finally unfinished. Pardon, we pray Thee, all our remaining opposition or indifference of heart to its progress within us: and while we feel the impossibility of doing any thing in it as of ourselves, may it be our constant aim to be workers in it together with Thee, and our constant desire to have it fully performed until the day of Christ Jesus, for His sake alone. Amen.

25th.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments : and his commandments are not grievous. 1 John v. 3.

Oh Thou whom we love, because Thou first lovedst us ; help us more and more to do so, not in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth : blessing Thee for Thy law as well as for Thy promises ; feeling that Thy commandments are not grievous ; and joyfully taking on us their easy yoke ; that we may thus make it manifest that Thy love is in us, and daily become more meet for Thine everlasting kingdom, through Him who magnified Thy law, and made it honourable, Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

26th.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matt. iv. 4.

Oh Lord our God, by whose word alone man can live, either naturally or spiritually ; we pray that that which proceedeth out of Thy mouth may prove to us our daily defence and daily bread. Grant that with thy Word, as the sword of the Spirit, we may so resist the devil, that he may flee from us ; and that with that bread of life, we may be nourished up unto life eternal, using all Thine appointed means of grace, *as* means, but looking to thee alone for a blessing on them ; through Him who has overcome for us. Amen.

27th.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, &c. *Rom. v. 1, 2.*

Oh Lord, from whom cometh *faith*, with every other good gift; we pray Thee to deepen and widen this grand channel of blessing to us, that all the wonders of Thy grace may be manifested in our hearts and lives. Through faith may we receive justification; have peace with Thee; find access to Thy throne of grace; be endued with power to stand; and rejoice in hope of Thy glory, till the joyful hour when faith shall be exchanged for sight, and hope for fruition. We ask it in His name who is the Author and Finisher of faith, even Christ our Lord. Amen.

28th.

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. *Eph. iv. 1.*

Oh Lord most holy, who hast called us with an holy calling, give us grace to arise from the debasement and pollution of our state by nature, and by the power of Thy Spirit subduing our corruptions, to walk worthy of that blessed vocation wherewith thou hast called us: having our conversation such has becometh the Gospel of Christ; and as members of the one body, the Church, following in the steps of the holy Apostles, and primitive believers, even as they followed Christ. Hear us and answer us in this and all our supplications, for His sake alone. Amen.

29th.

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Matt. xi. 28.*

Blessed Jesus, thou knowest how prone we are to labour for that which satisfieth not ; and how often we are needlessly heavy laden, when we might cast our burdens on Thyself. Oh grant that amidst all the toil and turmoil of this vain world, we may more and more distinctly hear Thy gracious call to come unto Thee ; and that through Thy grace obeying it, we may enter, in some measure, into Thy rest even here, till Thou call us to exchange Thine easy yoke and light burden on earth, for Thy perfect and everlasting rest above. Amen.

30th.

By faith ye stand. *2 Cor. i. 24.*

Gracious Lord, we pray Thee to fill our hearts with such a sense of our inability to stand one moment, except as we, by faith, take hold on Thy strength, that in a humble and dependent spirit, we may daily receive the blessings Thou offerest through faith. Oh that being made strong in Thee and in the power of Thy might, we may feel that by faith we *do* stand, and rejoice in hope that we shall continue to do so, till thou finally deliver us from all danger of falling, by receiving us to Thy glory, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

31st.

And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the Lord our God, as he hath commanded us.

Deut. vi. 25.

Assist us, Oh Lord, we entreat Thee, with the Spirit of all grace, that we may observe to do all Thy commandments which Thou hast commanded us, not as before men, but before Thee, knowing it shall be for our good always. Yet keep us from ever thus going about to establish our own righteousness; and grant that while diligently following after holiness, our eyes and our hopes may ever be towards Him, who is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth, our atoning and interceding Saviour. Amen.

APRIL.

1st. .

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift. *2 Cor. ix. 15.*

Author of *every* good and perfect gift, teach us, we pray Thee, to receive each and all as proofs of Thine undeserved mercy, and to improve all to the advancement of Thy glory. But may we more especially so contemplate Thy one unspeakable gift, that our whole souls may be melted in humble gratitude : and that blessing Thee daily for it, with our lips, hearts, and lives, we may thus begin on earth the unending song of praise and thanksgiving to the Lamb that was slain for us, which we hope to sing for ever above. Amen.

2nd.

For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end. *Heb. iii. 14.*

Oh Thou who hast given to a lost world the unspeakable gift of a Saviour ; we entreat Thy further grace, by which alone we can be made partakers of so inestimable a benefit. We bless Thee for that beginning of confidence which we trust is Thine own work within us ; and pray Thee so to keep us by Thy mighty power, that we may hold this beginning stedfast unto the end ; that so the work of grace, begun, continued, and ended in Thee here, may issue in the perfection of glory hereafter, through our only Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus. Amen.

3rd.

The wise shall inherit glory : but shame shall be the promotion of fools. *Prov.* iii. 35.

Oh Thou, the All-wise and All-glorious, before Thee the wisdom of man is and must be but foolishness. Oh give unto us that godly fear, which characterizes the wise in heart, even those who are made wise unto salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus : and grant that walking ever in Thy fear, we may, for His sake, inherit glory, when, separate from Him, our only promotion would justly be to shame and everlasting contempt. Hear us and answer us, we pray Thee, for Thy great mercy's sake, in Him. Amen.

4th.

So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground ; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, &c. *Mark* iv. 26, 27.

Oh Thou who alone canst cause the dry and barren ground of the human heart to bring forth fruit unto Thyself ; we know not indeed how the good seed should ever spring and grow up, in such a soil. But we pray that the Sun of Righteousness may shine, and the influences of Thy Spirit, like gentle dew, fall upon it ; that thus it may be made to yield, first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear, to be finally gathered into Thy garner, to Thy praise and glory, and our unspeakable joy, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

5th.

And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. *Eph. iv. 30.*

Spirit of all grace and truth, whom we so long resisted, and sought to quench, and whom we still feel our liability to grieve by our sins, negligences, and ignorances; take, we pray Thee, more and more entire possession of our hearts, that we may be more consciously and manifestly sealed by Thee, bearing Thine image and superscription unto the great day of redemption, through Him who after dying to save us, rose and ascended on high, that He might send Thee to teach us all things: and to Father, Son, and Spirit, be endless praises. Amen.

6th.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John xiv. 26.

Oh Thou who art Thyself the promise of the Father; we beseech Thee to be not only our Comforter in a world of sorrow, but our sanctifier in a world of sin, and our Teacher in a world of ignorance. Oh do Thou bring to our forgetful hearts the continual remembrance of the things which accompany salvation; and though we are foolish and slow of heart, yet condescend to teach us all things Thou seest to be needful or profitable for us, in fulfilment of our blessed Saviour's promise, and for His sake alone. Amen.

7th.

He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. *Acts* xix. 2.

Oh Thou who hast compassion on the ignorant, we bless Thee for the clearer light vouchsafed to us than to some of the members of Thy primitive Church; and pray that the same deep repentance and faith unfeigned which were in them, may prepare us for that teaching of the Holy Ghost which alone can lead into all truth. Thus, though not now looking for His miraculous gifts, may He, as the Spirit of the Word, ever make plain to us the Word of the Spirit, and may we know not His name alone, but His power, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

8th.

Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. *Rom.* iii. 31.

Preserve us, oh blessed Lord, we entreat Thee, from any approach to that awful abuse of Thy Gospel, which would seem to make void Thy law. Oh that while feeling we must be justified by faith alone, without the deeds of the law, we may likewise feel the commandment to be holy, and just, and good, and aim at its more complete establishment both within and around us. Grant that in thus doing Thy will, we may be daily learning of Thy doctrine, and be finally saved with an holy salvation, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

9th.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power : for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. *Rev. iv. 11.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, by whose power, and for whose pleasure all things are and were created : help us poor frail creatures of the dust, to join with the heavenly hosts before Thy throne, in ascribing all glory, and honour and power unto Thee : and while we see Thee so often disregarded or dishonoured, in a world Thou hast made in wisdom, and upheld in goodness ; oh let it be ever our heartfelt prayer, that Thy name may be hallowed, Thy kingdom established, and Thy holy blessed will done, as in heaven, so also on earth, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

10th.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power : for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. *Rev. iv. 11.*

Oh Thou the eternal Son, who art ever one with the Father, and without whom nothing was made that was made ; may we not only render to Thee the praise of which Thou art worthy as the Creator of the ends of the earth ; but looking to Thee also as the Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world, may we seek to have Thy *new* creation begun and perfected in us ; and thus to be daily preparing to sing the worthiness of the Lamb that was slain, to receive all honor and power, and glory, and blessing, for ever and ever. Amen.

11th.

Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John iii. 7.

Lord of Heaven and earth ; grant that while the many yet dead in trespasses and sins dispute with the wisdom of this world, and marvel and cavil at the necessity of being born again, we may earnestly desire and diligently seek that washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, which are indispensable to our entering the kingdom of Heaven. Oh that being thus born from above, we may prove that we live in the Spirit, by also walking in the Spirit, and be daily growing in grace, and therefore meetening for glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

12th.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering ; for he is faithful that promised ; And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, &c. *Heb. x. 23, 24, 25.*

Grant Lord, we pray Thee, that the remembrance of Thy faithful promises may be our preservative from all wavering either in faith, or in the profession of it. And may the sure approach of that day which shall try every man's work, stimulate us to consider one another, to provoke unto love and to good works, faithfully and tenderly to exhort one another, and gladly to assemble together now in Thy name, as we hope hereafter to meet and dwell together before Thy face in glory, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

13th.

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith ; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Heb. xii. 2.

Blessed Jesus, who, for the joy set before Thee in the salvation of men, didst endure the cross, and despise the shame ; help us, we entreat Thee, so to look *away* and *off from* all other dependencies, that we may be ever looking unto Thee, as the sole author and Finisher of our faith. May we, in following Thee, shrink from neither cross nor shame, but bless Thee daily for the joy Thou hast set before *us*, when the work of faith is done, even a blood-bought seat at thy own right hand, for Thy great mercy's sake. Amen.

14th.

And the servant said, Lord it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. *Luke xiv. 22.*

Oh Thou whose rich bounty has made ready a feast of fat things for the poor and destitute ; we bless Thee for silencing all our vain and sinful excuses, and graciously compelling us to come in. And since the rich measure of Thy grace is not yet full, oh, suffer us not to sit down satisfied, till as Thy faithful servants, we have done as Thou hast commanded, and joyfully proclaimed to the poor, and maimed, and halt, and blind around, that *yet* there is room. Thus let Thy table be continually furnished with welcome and joyful guests, for Thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

15th.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. *Psalm xxvii. 11.*

Oh Thou who knowest all the enemies and observers that watch for our halting; the snares and dangers that beset us round; and our own utter weakness and ignorance; we implore the help of Thy grace, to *shew* us first the way in which we should go, and then to *lead* us in it, as in a *plain* path, wherein, trusting implicitly to Thy guidance, we may feel the sweet confidence that our feet shall not stumble, till we reach the end of our course, and enter the rest. Thou hast prepared for us, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

16th.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me :
Psalm lxi. 18.

Oh Thou before whom all hearts are open, and who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; we might well despair of finding acceptance with Thee, hadst not Thou laid help on One that is mighty, by laying on Him the iniquity of us all. While therefore we hope we no longer willingly and consciously regard iniquity in our hearts, may the deep sense of our unworthiness bind us to Him whom Thou hearest always, and in and through whom alone we can hope to be heard, or accepted, or blessed, in time and eternity. Amen.

17th.

For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. *Psalms xxxii. 6.*

Oh Lord to whom every one that is godly *will* pray now in the time when Thou mayest be found; we desire to make our own the language of Thy servant David. Oh let us no more attempt to cover our sin, or proudly to keep silence before Thee; but humbly confessing our transgressions, may they all be cleansed with the blood of the Lamb. Then amidst the floods of great waters, may we peacefully rejoice that they shall not come nigh unto us to hurt us, since Thou wilt Thyself be our sure Hiding-place, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

18th.

Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked an alms- And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us, &c. *Acts iii. 4, 5.*

Gracious Lord, whose withdrawalment of miraculous powers from Thy Church, still leaves its ministers to dispense the abundance of spiritual gifts to its members; we pray Thee at once to keep us from any superstitious looking on them, as though by their own power or holiness they could do any thing; and to teach us reverently and meekly to give heed unto them, in faith *expecting* to receive something of them, from the treasures of which they are put in trust, by their Lord and ours, even Christ Jesus Thy Son. Amen.

19th.

And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. *Phil. iv. 7.*

Oh God of peace, without whom both our hearts and minds will be as the troubled sea, which cannot rest; we would seek first that peace *with* God which our Saviour died to purchase for us; and then that peace *of* God, which the world knows not of, but which passeth all understanding; which was His dying legacy to His sorrowing disciples, and which none can take from them. Oh may this be so shed abroad within us, in this tumultuous world, as entirely to keep our hearts and minds even to the end, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

20th.

And the Lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. *Luke xvi. 8.*

Father of light, with whom all the wisdom of this world is foolishness; help us to renounce all such devices as would be commended by the children of this generation, and to act and speak in all things as becometh the children of light. Only let their eager pursuit of the things which perish in the using, shame our indifference and sluggishness of heart, in seeking the true riches; and urge us to unceasing diligence in laying up treasure incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

21st.

Thou meetest him that rejoiceth, and worketh righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways : behold, thou art wroth : for we have sinned : in those is continuance, and we shall be saved.

Isa. lxiv. 5.

Oh thou who, when we were afar off and out of the way, didst meet us, not in deserved wrath, but in covenant mercy ; we have still to own Thou mightest justly be wroth ; for we *have* sinned, and *do* sin against Thee. Yet since Thou hast made us desire to work righteousness, and to remember Thee in Thy ways, Oh, may we rejoice that in *those* is continuance, and that we shall be saved, not for any thing in us, but only through Thine unchanging and everlasting mercy, which is in Christ Jesus Thy Son. Amen.

22nd.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof : but he that doeth the will do God abideth for ever. 1 *John* ii. 17.

Impress us, Oh Lord, we entreat Thee, with a growing sense of the worthlessness of all those objects of thought and desire, which perish in the using, and are all passing away with this passing world : and grant that using both it and them, as not abusing them, it may be our single aim to do Thy will on earth ; that so, when heaven and earth shall have passed away, Thy unchanging word may be fulfilled, and we may abide for ever in Thine all glorious presence in heaven, not for our worthiness, but Thy great mercy's sake in Christ Jesus. Amen.

23rd.

The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou Lord, &c. *Psalm lx. 9, 10.*

Oh God, whose power and whose mercy are alike without measure or end, from whom alone our help cometh, and without whom we can do nothing; give us grace more diligently to *seek* Thee; more perfectly and practically to *know* Thy name; and more fully to put our *trust* in Thee; and then in times of oppression or trouble, as Thou hast not forsaken others, so neither do Thou forsake us, but be also our Refuge, our Strength, and our very present help, even to the end, for the sake of Thy blessed Son, our Lord. Amen.

24th.

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. *Psalm lxxiii. 24.*

Oh Thou who art wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working, and who knowest that it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps; guide us, we beseech Thee, by Thy Holy Spirit, into all truth of doctrine, and all holiness of life. And since Thou hast graciously turned us from going on frowardly in the way of our own hearts, Oh may we ever listen to Thy still small voice, and find the guidance of Thy counsel on earth, to be daily bringing us nearer the fulness of Thy glory in heaven, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

25th.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered, &c. *Matt. x. 29, 30, 31.*

Heavenly Father, without whom not a sparrow falleth to the ground, and who numberest the very hairs of our head; we supplicate Thy pardon for all the workings of unbelief, and the feeble power of faith in our hearts: and utterly worthless as we are in ourselves, yet considering we are Thy workmanship, and redeemed to Thyself with so costly a price as the precious blood of Jesus Thy Son, let us ever exercise unlimited confidence in Thy power and grace, and not fear what man can do, for His sake. Amen.

26th.

And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord. *Isa. xxxvii. 14.*

Oh Lord of Hosts, whose eye is ever open to the wants of thy people, and whose ear ever inclined to listen to their cry; grant that whatever we receive from the hand of man, we may, with good Hezekiah of old, take it and spread it before Thee, desiring that Thy great name may be glorified, as well as ourselves delivered. Oh may both Thy house and the place of secret retirement witness to our thus spreading *all* our case before Thee, and do Thou graciously send us an answer of peace, for Jesus sake. Amen.

27th.

And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth ? Philip said unto him, Come and see. *John i. 46.*

Blessed Saviour, who, in the time of Thy humiliation for our sakes, wast content to be despised and rejected of men, and called a 'Nazarene;' Oh teach us to estimate aright the honor that cometh from men: enable us, in true humility of heart, to come and see the wonders of Thy condescending love; to sit meekly at thy feet, and to learn of Thee: and give us grace wisely and affectionately to invite those dear to us according to the flesh, to cast aside their prejudices, and come with us also, that we may do them good, by leading them to Thyself. Amen.

28th.

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

Isa. xlii. 22.

Heavenly King, our transgressions and sins had indeed as a cloud, a thick cloud, separated between Thee and our souls. Blessed for ever be that pardoning love which blotted them out, and thus opened the way for our return to Thee. Oh Thou who in tender love and pity hast redeemed us, keep us ever henceforth walking in the new and living way, and as restored, pardoned, humbled, and faithful children, beginning the song of praise now, which we hope to unite in singing on high to God, and the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

29th.

They have belied the Lord, and said, it is not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword or famine: And the prophets shall become wind, &c. *Jer. v. 12, 13.*

Oh God of truth and faithfulness, no word of whose lips can ever fail of its accomplishment; pardon us that at any time or in any way, we should have been tempted, like Thine ancient Israel, to belie Thee, or to question Thy dealings with us. Oh that when Thy judgments are in the earth, we may see Thy hand, and hear Thy voice: that so Thy word and Thy ministers may prove blessings to us, instead of calling down Thy displeasure against us, in every time of our visitation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

30th.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, &c. *Heb. xi. 13, 14,*

Oh thou who, through the Eternal Spirit, didst offer thyself without spot to God, we pray Thee to make us so sensible of our own uncleanness and defilements, which no outward forms can ever purify, that we may seek to have Thy most precious blood sprinkled on our guilty souls, not only to the purifying of the flesh, but to the purging of our conscience from all dead works, to serve the living God. Thus being cleansed by Thy blood, and sanctified by Thy Spirit, may we walk in newness of life, and praise a Triune God for ever. Amen.

MAY.

-1st.

No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house. *Mark iii. 27.*

Oh Thou who rulest over all; we would remember with shame and sorrow, the time when Satan, as a strong man armed, found his abode in our corrupt hearts, and kept his goods there in safety. We bless Thee for having done that which we, by nature, had neither will nor power to attempt; and since Thou hast, we trust, entered and bound the strong man, and begun to spoil his house, we pray that he may no more be suffered to prevail against us, but that we may be Thy faithful, willing, and devoted servants to our lives end, for Christ's sake, Amen.

2nd.

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but the Lord pondereth the hearts. *Prov. xxi. 2.*

Oh Thou great searcher and ponderer of all hearts, we bless Thee for revealing to us something of those depths of folly and ignorance, in which alone any ways of our own could seem to us *right* ways: and we pray that seeing all such more and more in the light in which they must appear to Thy holy and heart-searching eye, we may more and more renounce all that is our own, and seek to have our blessed Saviour made of Thee unto us, wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. We ask it for His sake. Amen.

3rd.

And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. *Matr. viii. 2.*

Oh Thou who hast fully shewn forth both Thy power and willingness to save us from our lost estate by nature; we implore that grace which will bring us to Thy feet, and keep us there. Then do Thou in mercy put forth Thy hand; and speak the gracious word of spiritual healing and health; that we may be cleansed from the foul leprosy of sin, and constrained to present ourselves, our bodies and souls, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee, till Thou call us to render Thee better service above for ever. Amen.

4th.

But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. *Ezek. ii. 8.*

Oh Thou who knowest all the natural rebellion of our corrupt hearts; we beseech Thee to bring our every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Oh let us not only open our mouth wide, that Thou mayest fill it with *food*; but if Thou see fit to feed us with bread of affliction and water of tears, still may we meekly and willingly receive it, as food convenient for us, since *Thou* givest it; and may all combine to nourish us up unto life eternal, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

5th.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. *John xvi. 23.*

Oh Thou, whom we are permitted to call our Father, in and through Thy Son Jesus, we pray that we may indeed be accepted and blessed in Him. We feel we have not come to Thee, as exclusively in His name as we ought, in time past. Oh that henceforth, renouncing all other dependence, we may practically acknowledge Him to be the one only way to the Father; plead His merits, and His only; and realize the fulfilment of His own most blessed promise, that whatsoever we ask in His name, Thou wilt give for His sake. Amen.

6th.

Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my fury upon it in blood, to cut off from it man and beast: Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live, &c. *Ezek. xiv. 19, 20.*

Maker of all things, Judge of all men: we feel not only that none of *us* could give a ransom for our brother; but that Noah, Daniel, and Job, and all the company of heaven and earth might vainly seek to intercede for us, when Thy fury was poured out. But we bless Thee that Thou hast Thyself laid help on One who is mighty; mighty to save; and able as well as willing. Give us but grace fully and joyfully to accept so great salvation, that our souls may be delivered by His righteousness and by His only. We ask it in His name, and for His sake. Amen.

7th.

In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly. *Job i. 22.*

Father of mercies, and God of all grace, we pray Thee to pour into our foolish hearts, more of that Spirit of humble acquiescence, in which Thy servant Job could bless Thy name equally in giving, and in taking away. Oh grant that in the fuller light that shines on us, we may be ever kept from the presumptuous sin of charging Thee foolishly; may receive all Thy chastisements, in the exercise of christian patience, faith, and hope; and may find all working together for our good, through Him who suffered that we might reign, and died that we might live for ever. Amen.

8th.

And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; &c. *Matt. xxi. 15, 16.*

Blessed and glorious son of David, to whom all the armies of heaven rejoice to render praise; make it, we pray Thee, our desire and delight to see Thee glorified also, among the inhabitants of the earth, from the babe and suckling, to the great and aged. And grant that the faint and feeble cry of our Hosannas on earth, may be daily preparing us to join in the rapturous and ceaseless Hallelujahs of the heavenly worshippers, whom neither wonder nor chiding ever interrupt, but who praise Thee world without end. Amen.

9th.

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To-day; &c. *Heb. iii. 12, 13.*

O Lord, the living God, from whom we desire never more to depart; grant that while taking diligent heed to ourselves, and faithfully exhorting one another daily, we may still look ever to Thee, and Thee alone, to deliver us from the evil heart of unbelief within, and from the deceitfulness of sin around, through which it may so easily be hardened. O do Thou to-day and every day save all the brotherhood of faith from both perils, and bind us all to Thyself in a perpetual covenant, never to be forgotten, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

10th.

Salt is good: but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. *Luke xiv. 34, 35.*

Blessed Lord, who callest all them that are Thine, to be the salt of the earth; we pray Thee to pardon all the deficiencies, shortcomings, backslidings, and sins, that prevent our being, as we might, a sweet savour of Christ, wherever Thou seest good to place us. Grant that henceforth, our christian responsibilities to Thee, and to our fellow-creatures, may be so continually present to our minds, that all which proceedeth from us may be to the use of edifying, and that the salt of Thy grace in us may never lose its savour, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

11th.

O send out thy light and thy truth : let them lead me ; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. *Psalms* xliii. 3.

Father of Light, and God of truth, have pity on us poor sojourners in this world of darkness and of deceits, through which we have no power to direct our own steps aright ; and so send out Thy light and Thy truth, to lead us and guide us continually, that we may go on our way rejoicing ; and be ever consciously journeying towards Thy Holy Hill which is above, there to realize Thy joy unspeakable and full of glory, for His sake who is gone thither to prepare a place for his disciples, and then to receive them unto Himself for ever. Amen.

12th.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold : sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb. *Psalms* xix. 10.

Oh Lord our God, whose ways and whose judgments are all truth and righteousness : grant that our estimate of earthly and of heavenly things may be so regulated by Thy grace, that with the Psalmist, we may esteem the things most desired on earth as worthless, those sweetest on earth as insipid, compared with those Thy judgments, which are more precious than gold, and more sweet than honey, or the honey-comb. Oh that by them we may be ever warned, and in keeping them, find rich and sweet reward, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

13th.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. *Rom. xii. 21.*

Oh Lord, in whom alone we have either righteousness or strength, we pray Thee so to endue us with the healthful spirit of Thy grace, that we may in all things learn to refuse the evil, and to choose the good. Yea, do 'Thou so make Thy strength perfect in our weakness, that we may never more, as in time past, be overcome of evil ; but that with the good which is all of Thee, we may be enabled to overcome the evil which is all of ourselves and of the evil One ; and thus find Thee, who art with us, greater than all that are against us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

14th.

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, &c. *2 Thess. ii. 16, 17.*

Oh Thou God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who art even our Father also in and through Him : we pray thee to fix deeply on our minds the inseparable connexion between holiness and comfort : that so, being not only grounded but stablished in every good word and work, we may believingly appropriate the assurances of Thy wondrous love ; and realize the blessedness of that good hope through grace, which alone can either comfort our hearts in this life, or ensure to us everlasting consolation in that which is to come, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

15th.

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, &c. *Romans* v. 20, 21.

Grant, oh blessed Lord, we pray Thee, that with the humbling sense of our own abounding offences, given us by the light of Thy Holy law, we may have also such a view of Thy super-abounding grace, through the Gospel, as may fill our souls with adoring gratitude and believing love. And turning from that sin which once reigned in us, and yet reigns in so many unto death eternal, may we rejoice in the blessed hope of that grace which we trust shall reign in us through righteousness, unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

16th.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat, &c. *Prov.* xi. 24, 25.

Oh Thou from whose unsearchable riches we have so freely received, teach and dispose us henceforth to walk consistently as Thy children, who givest to all men liberally. Pardon us whereinsoever we have withheld more than is meet: graciously multiply and increase any good seed Thou givest us the privilege of scattering or watering in Thy name; and then do thou also fulfil Thine own promise, by nourishing and strengthening our own souls, and watering them abundantly with the dew of Thy blessing, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

17th.

That good thing which was committed unto thee, keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us. 2 Tim. i. 14.

Heavenly Father, who art the giver of all good things, and who hast graciously put us *all*, in some sense, in trust of that most precious gift of Thy holy Scriptures of truth; grant, we pray Thee, notwithstanding all our own weakness and inability, that we may, through the power of the Holy Ghost, dwelling in us, ever faithfully keep and hold it fast; rejoicing, that, while doing so, Thou wilt assuredly keep that which we have committed to Thee, till the great day, Through Christ Jesus. Amen.

18th.

But ye that did cleave unto the Lord your God, are alive every one of you this day. Deut. iv. 4.

Oh Thou to whose unceasing care and watchful providence we owe our daily and hourly preservation from all the dangers that beset us round; pardon us that we have so little committed ourselves to thy keeping, or testified to thy goodness. And grant that, from this day forth, cleaving to Thee with entire purpose of heart, we may not only or chiefly be kept from earthly evil, but may all be surely preserved by Thee unto life everlasting, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

19th.

Sanctify them through thy truth : thy word is truth.

John xvii. 17.

Holy Father, whose word is everlasting truth, and whose truth alone can sanctify the unholy, and make them meet for Thy presence above ; we pray that by it our corrupt hearts may be enlightened and purified day by day. And Thou the eternal Son, who art Thyself both the Word and the truth, oh let Thine own prayer for the sanctification of Thy people be daily answered in us, through the influences and instructions of Thy Spirit, for Thy great name and mercy's sake. Amen.

20th.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered ; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. *Heb. v. 8, 9.*

Oh Thou eternal Son of the Father, who, by a mysterious process beyond the feeble powers of human comprehension, didst deign to learn obedience by the things Thou sufferedst, during Thy voluntary humiliation for our sakes : give us grace, we pray Thee, now to learn obedience unto Thee from Thine own holy example ; Make us willing to be, like Thee, made perfect through suffering ; and through Thy one sacrifice, and ceaseless intercession, may we be made partakers of Thine eternal salvation. Amen.

21st.

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Rom. xiii. 11.

We acknowledge, oh Lord, and bewail the spiritual sloth and negligence that have so grievously kept us back hitherto from following Thee fully. O grant that under an abiding impression of the near approach of that complete salvation for which we wait, we may feel it now high time to awake more than ever out of sleep, and in the spirit of watchfulness and prayer, daily draw nearer to Thee; that so, at our Master's coming, we may be found among them that love His appearing. Amen.

22nd.

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear, &c. *Heb. xii. 28, 29.*

Oh Thou whose glorious majesty and power are set forth to us in Thy terrible name of a consuming fire; we pray Thee to give us that spirit of reverence and godly fear, which such a name ought to inspire. And yet since Thou graciously permittest us to call Thee *our* God, oh may we have grace also to serve Thee acceptably, and to realize the privileges and hopes of those whom Thou callest to inherit the kingdom which cannot be moved, through Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant. Amen.

23rd.

And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. *Acts ix. 20.*

Blessed Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, and the only Saviour of lost sinners; we have cause for deep contrition in looking back to those days of our ignorance and unbelief, when, by our works, if not with our lips, we denied Thee before men. Oh that now Thou hast caused the light of Thy truth to dawn on our hearts, it might be our first desire to acknowledge Thee in all our ways, and with Thy holy Apostle, to confess Thee, the Son of God, as Thou givest us opportunity. Hear us for Thy mercy's sake. Amen.

24th.

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. *Col. iv. 5.*

Oh Thou great Shepherd of the sheep, who soughtest us out when yet afar off, to bring us into Thy fold; inspire us with Christian compassion for all such as are still "without," and enable us so to walk in wisdom towards them, as to be made instrumental, in Thy hands, in bringing them in. And as days and years pass so swiftly by us, oh may their rapid flight stimulate us diligently to redeem whatever time Thou wilt give us for so high and holy a purpose, and to thy name be all the praise for ever. Amen.

25th.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit, unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently. 1 *Pe.* 1. 22.

Spirit of truth and of love, by whose sacred influences alone our sinful souls can be purified; we pray that through them, we may both obey the truth ourselves, and also be filled with love unfeigned to all who are brethren and sisters in Christ Jesus. Grant that being made One in Him, we may be kept from unduly regarding any inferior distinctions, and love one another with a pure heart fervently, for His sake who so loved us, and to whom we desire to be all united by a living faith, for ever. Amen.

26th.

There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god. I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, &c. *Psal.* lxxxi. 9, 10.

Search us, oh God, and know our hearts, we entreat Thee; and so teach us to search and try them ourselves, that every strange God that has ever been set up or suffered to remain in them, may be altogether cast forth; and that turning henceforth, with all our heart, and soul, and mind, and strength, to Thyself as the Lord our God, who hast brought us forth from a worse than Egyptian bondage, we may in faith open our mouth wide, largely expecting, as Thou hast largely promised, and be filled with good, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

27th.

Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it : but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it ; for it is a cursed thing. *Deut. vii. 26.*

Oh Lord our God, we implore Thy grace, to make us in all things faithful unto Thee. May we use all diligence and watchfulness, to prevent the entrance of any thing into our houses or our hearts, that would be an abomination in Thy sight, and quench every rising desire after the cursed thing, with the fear of becoming ourselves a cursed thing like unto it. Rather let us utterly detest, and utterly abhor it, and give ourselves wholly to Thee, knowing those whom Thou bleasest to be alone blessed, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

28th.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. *2 Pet. iii. 14.*

Blessed Jesus, who Thyself art our only peace, grant unto us, that looking for such things as the solemn passing away of heaven and earth, we may be neither ignorant nor unprepared, when that day of Thine shall come : but considering what manner of persons we ought to be, may we use all diligence to be found of Thee then in peace, without spot, and blameless, being arrayed in Thy righteousness, and looking for and hasting to Thy coming. Hear us, we pray Thee, for Thine own mercy's sake. Amen.

29th.

For Tophet is ordained of old ; yea, for the king it is prepared ;
He hath made it deep and large : the pile thereof is fire and much
wood ; the breath of the Lord, &c. *Isa. xxx. 33.*

Oh Thou who art all mercy in Christ Jesus,
but out of Him, a consuming fire : help us to
serve Thee with fear, and to rejoice with
trembling. And while blessing Thee who
hast caused us to flee to the only refuge from
the storm of Thy righteous indignation, oh may
our hearts be melted in compassion for all
those against whom Thy breath yet seems as
a stream of brimstone, and for whom the fear-
ful pile of Tophet yet seems preparing : and
may we tenderly urge them to turn to the one
only stronghold, while yet there is hope, in
and through Christ Jesus. Amen.

30th.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Rom. x. 17.

Oh Lord, from whom come alike the means
of grace, and the hope of glory : we pray that
both Thy written and thy preached word may
not fail to accomplish that which Thou pleasest
in our minds and souls. Oh may we delight
in Thy law, and receive with meekness Thine
engrafted word, by whoever dispensed ; and
thus by hearing, may faith not only *come*, but
grow stronger and stronger, that its fruits
may abound to Thy glory, and that it may be
the assured foretaste of the glory Thou hast
prepared for us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

31st.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. *John* i. 11, 12.

Oh Thou who camest to Thine *own* of old, and they received Thee not ; have compassion on them yet, we pray Thee, that they may turn, and believe, and live : and oh, do Thou so work in them and in ourselves, both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, that we may receive Thee in all Thine offices of mercy, through the converting power of Thy Holy Spirit. Thus, while all alike by nature would have refused Thine offered salvation, may all by grace believingly accept it, and become sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty, for Thine own sake alone. Amen.

JUNE.

1st.

But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not : for of such is the kingdom of God. *Mark* x. 14.

Gracious Saviour, who castest out none that come to Thee ; keep us from ever forbidding, rebuking, or discouraging, as if beneath Thy notice, any whom we see coming. And while we bless that condescending love which is alike displayed in Thine invitations to us *all*, from the greatest to the least, oh imbue us daily with more and more of that spirit of little children, without which there can be no entrance found to Thy kingdom ; and finding which, Thou wilt suffer, receive, renew, and save us even to the end. Amen.

2nd.

Arise, shine ; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. *Isa.* lx. 1.

Oh Thou, the Sun of righteousness, who hast arisen a light to lighten this dark world ; cause Thy bright beams so to illuminate Thy whole Church upon earth, that she may arise with Thee to shine gloriously. And to every individual member of it give grace also to awake and arise from the thick darkness of nature, to walk joyfully in the light as a child of light, and to reflect the brightness of Thy glory here, till Thou see fit to disperse all the shadows of night, and make it perfect day for ever and ever. Amen.

3rd.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. *Rom. xii. 1.*

Heavenly Father, grant that we may be more and more effectually besought by all Thy rich and ceaseless mercies, to present our bodies as a living sacrifice unto Thee. Oh let such a service commend itself to us as most reasonable: may it be rendered holy, through the sanctifying influence of Thy Spirit, and acceptable, through the much incense of the merits of Thy Son, without whom we could not presume to offer Thee any service or sacrifice, and in whom is all our hope, now and ever. Amen.

4th.

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness, &c. *1 Cor. i. 22, 23, 24.*

Give us, oh blessed Lord, we entreat Thee, a growing understanding and love of the stupendous doctrine of "Christ crucified:" that while, to those who require earthly signs, or seek after human wisdom, it is a stumbling block or foolishness, it may indeed be to us both the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Oh that in it alone we may glory, taking it as our only ground of hope, and longing and praying for the time, when both Jews and Greeks shall with us lie at the foot of His cross, who died alike for all. Amen.

5th.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body : so also is Christ. 1 Cor. xii. 12.

Oh thou who hast graciously called us to be members of Thy one body, the Church ; we pray for such a sense of our mutual dependence on each other, as well as of our common union with Thee, the one only Head over all, as may outweigh all diversities in the operations of Thy Spirit, working to every man severally as He will. Oh grant that both watching and praying against every thing that might cause a schism in the body, we may all have care one for another, and all, however many, feel ourselves one in Thee for ever. Amen.

6th.

The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup : thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places ; yea, I have a goodly heritage. Psalm xvi. 5, 6.

Blessed Lord, we acknowledge ourselves utterly destitute, helpless, ignorant ; and would look to Thy free and boundless mercy alone, to choose and to maintain for us the lot of our inheritance. Yea, we would joyfully embrace Thine offer of being Thyself our Portion ; and pray that while so rich a cup, and so goodly a heritage, call us to tell of the lines falling to us in pleasant places even here, we may be daily meetening for the full inheritance of the Saints in light, laid up both for them and us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

7th.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. iii. 18.

We bless Thee, gracious Lord, that the veil of blindness which yet remains untaken away from Thine ancient people, has to *us* been done away in Christ. Oh that while privileged to behold with open face, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, we may, through the operation of His spirit, be daily changed into the same image; and be continually advancing in meetness for that day of glory, when we hope to be indeed made like Him, seeing Him no longer through a glass, but as He is. Grant it for his sake alone. Amen.

8th.

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Gen. vi. 5, 6.

Oh Holy Lord God, who seest all the great and continual wickedness of man upon the earth; we can neither deny nor palliate our own share of corruption and guilt before Thee; but we entreat Thee so to cast down all imaginations, and to cleanse the thoughts of our vile hearts, that they may be brought into entire and blessed captivity to the obedience of Christ; that instead of ever more grieving Thy Holy Spirit, we may become partakers of those gifts and calling of Thine, which are without repentance, through the same Christ Jesus. Amen.

9th.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, &c. 2 Cor. vi. 17, 18.

O Lord God Almighty, who, in wondrous condescension dost offer to receive the sinful children of men, as Thy sons and daughters, to call Thee Father: so guide and strengthen us, we pray Thee, by Thy Spirit, that we may as obedient children, come out and be separate from all those idolatries and vanities of this present evil world, which would separate between Thee and our souls. Oh quench Thou within us every desire even to touch anything Thou pronounceest unclean, and enable us to perfect holiness in Thy fear, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

10th.

Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily. Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. *Psalms lxxxvi. 3, 4.*

Oh Lord, who art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy to all that call upon Thee; grant us, that crying unto Thee daily, we may daily experience Thy mercy; that lifting up our souls above human dependencies and earthly vanities, to Thee who sittest above, and rulest over all, we may, as Thy faithful servants, find Thee continually not only preserving, but rejoicing our souls, for His sake, in whom alone Thou canst be well pleased with any thing that is our's, even Jesus, Thy beloved Son, our Saviour. Amen.

11th.

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith ; prove your own selves. 2 Cor. xiii. 5.

Oh God of truth, to whom all hearts are open, we know how vain would be any attempt to disguise *our's* before Thee. But we beseech Thee to keep us from all *self*-deception, and to direct us in such constant and faithful examination of our hearts and lives, as may tend at once to humble and to sanctify us. Thus proving our own selves, may we rightly know that we are in the faith, and stedfastly and joyfully be ever looking for that salvation which Thou bestowest freely on poor sinners, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

12th.

But wisdom is justified of all her children. Luke vii. 35.

Grant, Lord, we pray Thee, that while the wise of this world stumble and are offended at the great mystery of godliness, we may be seeking that wisdom which cometh from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated. And while they reject Thy counsel, may we, in humble adoration, fully and practically justify that only way of salvation which Thou hast revealed to us, and walk as Thine obedient and loving children, in and through Him whom Thou declarest to be ready to be made of Thee unto us wisdom. Amen.

13th.

Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

Mat. xv. 25.

Oh Thou who art the Helper of all that flee to Thee for succour ; increase the stedfastness and simplicity of our faith in Thee : and though Thou shouldest see fit to try it, by delaying the answer to our prayers, and causing the promise to tarry, still may the sense of our urgent necessities, and of Thine ability and willingness to relieve them all, so fill our hearts, that no power of earth or of hell may silence the cry to Thee to save us, till, in Thine own time and way, Thou grant us an answer of peace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

14th.

Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him ; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him, &c. *Deut. xiii. 8, 9.*

Thanks be to Thee, oh Lord, who hast in Thy good providence, placed *us* under the ministration, not of death, but of life ; exempting us from the fearful duty of stretching forth an avenging hand against an offending brother, and calling us at once to hate the sin, and to love the sinner. Oh suffer us not to abuse our privileges, by consenting or hearkening to any, however dear, who would entice us away from Thee : but rather, both by word and deed, may we invite all we love to come with us, that we may do them good, by bringing them to Jesus. Amen.

15th.

Teach me thy way, O Lord ; I will walk in thy truth : unite my heart to fear thy name. *Psalms lxxxvi. 11.*

Oh Thou only effectual Teacher of the good and right way, the way of truth ; graciously impart to us both the will and the power, of which we are, by nature, alike destitute, to run therein without weariness, and to walk without fainting: and grant that all our faculties of heart and soul, being withdrawn from every object that would stand in competition with Thyself, may unreservedly unite to fear and to magnify Thy great name, oh Lord God, Father, Son, and Spirit, now, henceforth, and for ever. Amen.

16th.

And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people, as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men. *Micah v. 7.*

Oh Thou who art Thyself as the dew unto Thine Israel, and who didst first send forth Thine Apostles as a remnant of Jacob, in the midst of many people: grant that the same blessed Gospel they had in trust, may still be as a dew from Thee, as the showers upon the grass; which neither tarrying for, nor depending on the feebleness of human instrumentality, may continually accomplish that which Thou pleasest, and cause innumerable plants of grace to grow up unto life eternal, till Jew and Gentile become one in Thee for ever. Amen.

17th.

But whose hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil. *Pro. i. 33.*

Oh Thou who alone canst give the hearing ear, and the understanding heart ; we implore Thy forgiveness, that we so long refused to hearken to the voice of the Charmer ; and that we have never given Thee such diligent heed as Thou justly requirest. Oh grant that from this time forth, in obeying the word of Thy precepts, we may realize the fulfilment of Thy promises : and that casting aside all faithless anxieties, we may ever dwell safely under Thine Almighty wings, and be kept quiet from all fear of evil, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

18th.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth : he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. *Isa. lili. 7.*

Oh Thou pure and spotless Lamb of God, who, to take away the sin of the world, didst Thyself submit to be oppressed and afflicted, and led to the slaughter : do Thou not only endue us with a measure of Thy Spirit of meek and unanswering endurance, but fill our souls with such a sense of Thy wondrous love, in being wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, that we may cease from any other hope of salvation, and only desire to be washed in Thy most precious blood, and to be made wholly and entirely Thine, now and for ever. Amen.

19th.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us. 1 Cor. v. 7.

Oh Holy Lord, who didst direct Thine ancient people to commemorate by a solemn fast, Thy deliverance of them out of Egypt: grant that the yet more astonishing salvation Thou hast wrought out for us, may so affect our hearts, that, from time to time, partaking the pledges and symbols of our Saviour's redeeming, dying love, we may rejoice with more lively gratitude in Christ our passover, who has been sacrificed for us, and sing the worthiness of the Lamb that was slain, to receive endless praises. Amen.

20th.

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. 1 Cor. v. 8.

Oh Thou who, as the great Paschal Lamb, without blemish and without spot, didst once, through the eternal Spirit, offer Thyself to God as a sin-offering for us; give us grace, in keeping the feast according to Thine own most holy institution, to put altogether away from us the old leaven of our former conversation, with all malice, wickedness, and guile; that while feeding on the bread of life, truth may be made to reign in all our hearts, and sincerity to characterize all our lives henceforth, as thy faithful followers. Amen.

21st.

I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice, and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. *Psalms cxvi. 1, 2.*

Merciful Father, who art ever more ready to hear than we to pray, let the remembrance of the many times when Thou hast graciously inclined Thine ear, and heard and answered the voice of our feeble supplications, incite us to call upon Thee as long as we live, and to commit ourselves wholly to thy care and keeping: and let it also awaken in us more fervent and practical love to Thee, the Giver of all good gifts, whom we love, because Thou first lovedst us, in and through Thy blessed Son our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

22nd.

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. *James ii. 19.*

Oh Thou, the one living and true God; grant that while those spirits of darkness whose belief is void of hope, acknowledge with fear and trembling that Thou art; we may come to Thee as the rewarder of them that diligently seek Thee in Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our better faith; and knowing that faith without works is dead, give us grace to prove its life and power in our hearts, by lives conformable thereto in all things; that so proving our faith by our works, we may be saved by Thy grace, through faith, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

23rd.

Then Jesus beholding him, loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest : go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, &c. *Mark x. 21.*

Oh Thou who art the discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart ; give us, we pray Thee eyes to see, and hearts to seek after all that is yet lacking in us. Oh make us ready to part with whatsoever Thou hast given us of This world's good, for Thy sake and the Gospel's, rejoicing in treasure laid up for us in heaven : and prepare us cheerfully to take up the cross and follow Thee fully, that so we may never turn from Thee, grieved or ashamed, or condemned, but be numbered with Thy faithful followers, for ever. Amen.

24th.

Then Jesus beholding him, loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest : go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, &c. *Mark x. 21.*

Oh Thou gracious Saviour, who canst behold sinners even afar off, and love them ; we pray Thee to fill our hearts with such tender pity and concern for all those whom we find unprepared to enter Thy kingdom, though lovely and of good report among men, that we may faithfully and affectionately set before them the one thing needful which they yet lack ; and both by precept and example, by the wisdom of the serpent, and the harmlessness of the dove, strive to remove all stumbling blocks out of their way, and win them to Thee. Amen.

25th.

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, &c. *Gen. xviii. 19.*

Oh God of the families of the whole earth ; we pray Thee continually to direct and bless us in the discharge of our various relative duties. Make it our earnest desire that all who belong to *our* households, should be members of the household of faith : and enable us, in our different stations, so to testify, persuade, exhort, or command according to the measure of grace Thou givest us, that many may be blessed by our means, being led into Thy ways, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

26th.

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment, &c. *Gen. xviii. 19.*

Oh God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob : we pray that through Thy preventing and sustaining grace, which is alone sufficient for us, we may be known of Thee as Thy servant of old was, to keep Thy way, to do justice and judgment ; and being made partakers of like precious faith, and proving it by the same fruits of holy obedience, may we be blessed with Him, by having those good things brought upon us, which Thou hast graciously spoken concerning all who walk in Thy fear, through the merits of Thy Son. Amen.

27th.

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.
Psalms cxviii. 22, 23.

Oh Thou whose most marvellous work has ever proved a stone of stumbling, disallowed and refused, unto as many as seek to be justified by works of their own: grant that to us it may be the chief corner stone, elect, precious, in whom we may be builded together, for an habitation of God, through the Spirit; the sure foundation of all our hopes; and all our salvation, and all our desire, till the top stone at last be brought forth with shoutings of grace, grace unto it. Oh hear, and answer us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

28th.

Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. *Matth. xviii. 4.*

Grant, blessed Lord, we pray Thee, that while we feel it indeed good for us to be where we may behold any of the bright beams of Thy glory, we may yet be equally ready to follow Thee from the mount of bliss, to the valley of humiliation: and taking heed to the sure word of prophecy Thou hast given us, may we wait in humble and joyful hope, till thou dissolve our earthly tabernacle, and bring us, not to the Mount Tabor below, but to the Mount Zion above, there to dwell with Thee, and behold Thine unclouded glory for ever. Amen.

29th.

And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? *1 Kings xvii 18-*

Oh holy Lord, who with rebukes doth correct man for his iniquity: grant that every stroke of Thy rod may so call our sin to our remembrance, that we may meekly bear Thine indignation, knowing we have rebelled against Thee. But let not Thy terrors make us afraid; rather, receiving that chastisement whereof all Thy children are partakers, may we be drawn nearer and nearer to Thee, and be purified in the furnace, till we be made at length partakers of Thy holiness, through the power of Thy Spirit, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

30th.

Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, &c. *John xiv. 22, 23.*

Oh Thou who dost manifest Thyself to the soul of every believer, as Thou dost not unto the world: grant that, through the indwelling of Thy Holy Spirit in our hearts, we may abidingly have Thee made known to us, in the ministry of Thy word, by whoever dispensed; in the privilege of Christian intercourse with others; and in every afflictive visitation Thou mayest see needful to appoint for us; thus evidencing that we are Thine, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

JULY.

1st.

Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world ? Jesus answered and said unto him, &c. *John xiv. 22, 23.*

Grant, Lord, we pray Thee, that amidst all our ignorance and slowness of heart, we may yet diligently enquire and seek after the manifestation of Christ to our souls, as our light, peace, happiness and glory. And proving our love to Him, by faithfully keeping His words, may we be blessed *now*, by His life-giving spirit having a dwelling place within us ; and *hereafter*, by ourselves having a resting place in the heaven he has purchased for us with His own most precious blood. Hear us for His sake alone. Amen.

2nd.

But covet earnestly the best gifts : and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. *1 Cor. xii. 31.*

Giver of every good and perfect gift, we entreat Thee to moderate and regulate all our desires for those things which perish in the using ; as well as for such spiritual gifts also as might tend rather to puff up than to edify. And do Thou teach us to covet earnestly those which Thou pronouncest the best, especially seeking after more of that most excellent gift of charity, which Thou only canst give, and without which there can be no conformity to the image of Thy Son, our most merciful Lord and Saviour. Amen.

3rd.

And Jesus answering, said unto him, Suffer it to be so now : for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. *Matt. iii. 15.*

Bestow on us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, grace sufficient for us, both to suffer now whatever Thou callest us to submit to ; and also to fulfil, at least in desire and endeavour, all righteousness ; knowing that such a course alone becometh the professed followers of Him, who submitted to those ordinances which He needed not as we do, and fulfilled every jot and tittle of Thy most holy law, leaving us an example, that we should follow His steps. Oh do Thou assist us by Thy Spirit, and hear us in and through Thy Son. Amen.

4th.

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Cor. iv. 6.*

Oh God, by whose command alone the light can shine out of either natural or spiritual darkness ; we bless Thee that the day-spring from on high has visited our darkened understandings and senseless hearts. Oh that it may shine into them more and more, unto the perfect day ; daily enlarging our knowledge of Thy glory, as it is reflected in the face of Christ Jesus, through whom alone we can look to Thee as a God of grace now, and hope to praise Thee as a God of glory hereafter. Grant it, we implore Thee, for His sake alone. Amen.

5th.

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us. 1 John iii. 24.

Oh Lord our God, who, of Thy great mercy, hast shewn us something of the blessedness of dwelling in Thee, and Thee in us; grant that the abiding in our hearts of Thy holy, sanctifying Spirit, may purify them day by day from all iniquity, and keep them ever in the way of Thy commandments: that so, believing fully on the name of Thy Son, and loving one another for His sake, as He gave us commandment, we may, unworthy as we are, yet know ourselves to be Thine, now, henceforth, and for ever. Amen.

6th.

I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts.

Psalms cxix. 94.

Oh God of salvation, give us grace, we beseech Thee, to seek Thy precepts more diligently, and to keep them more faithfully than we have hitherto done. May *this* be our testimony that we are Thine, chosen to sanctification here, as well as to glorification hereafter; and then as Thine adopted children, may we cry unto Thee alone, to save us from every foe and every fear; and do Thou graciously hear, Lord, in heaven, thy dwelling-place, and answer and forgive for Thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

7th.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.
1 John iii. 14.

Grant to us, blessed Lord, we beseech Thee, a well founded conviction of our having undergone that all-important and wondrous change, which Thy word describes as a "passing from death unto life." Oh may its reality be manifested both to others, and to our own consciences, by that true and fervent love to the brethren, which is most opposite to the spirit of this world; but which ought to bind together with an indissoluble tie, all such as desire to be made one in Christ Jesus for ever. Amen.

8th.

And this also we wish, even your perfection. 2 Cor. xiii. 9.

Oh Thou from whom alone proceed all holy desires; we entreat Thee so to conform our's to Thy will, that while the multitude around us are ever seeking and following after vain things, we may have all other wishes either for ourselves or those dear to us, absorbed in the one desire for such spiritual progress towards final perfection, as may give glory to Thy name, and daily bring us nearer to that blessed state, when we shall be made complete in him, who is head over all things to His Church for ever. Amen.

9th.

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. *Gal. iv. 6.*

Abba, Father, who, in infinite condescension, hast called us, notwithstanding all our natural corruption, and personal guilt, to the glorious adoption of children; send down, we beseech Thee, into our yet but partially renewed hearts, more and more of the Spirit of Thy Son, the mind that was in Christ; that being Thy children, not in profession alone, but in truth, we may prove our sonship by the fruits of holy confidence, expectation, love, and obedience, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

10th.

And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child, &c. *1 Sam. iii. 8, 9.*

Oh Lord God, who, in these last days hast spoken unto us *by Thy Son*; we would confess and bewail both the thoughtless folly and ignorance of our youth, and our remaining backwardness to hear and obey, since Thou hast graciously revealed Thyself unto us. Oh that henceforth, our ready answer to every call of Thine may be, "Speak Lord, for Thy servant heareth:" And as we learn more ourselves of the blessedness of Thy service, may we the more desire to direct the lambs of the flock to the good Shepherd, the only Saviour for either them or us. Amen.

11th.

Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. *Gal. iv. 7.*

Holy Father, whom it would have been indeed an unspeakable privilege to serve as a *Master*, with the devotedness of faithful servants; grant that, since Thou hast called us, with yet more astonishing condescension and love, to be no more servants, but sons, and heirs of God through Christ; we may follow Thee, not in the spirit of bondage, but as loving and obedient children; rejoicing in all Thou art doing for us now, and in the inheritance reserved for us above, purchased for us with the precious blood of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

12th.

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. *Luke xii. 15.*

Oh God, who searchest out all those covetous desires of the flesh, that would hide themselves in the deepest recesses of our hearts, give us grace to detect and renounce them all. And while we bless Thee for all the abundance of temporal good things, which Thy providence has made us to possess, oh, may we beware of making them our portion, and seek supremely a treasure in heaven, even that eternal life which is Thy best gift, and which Thou freely offerest to poor sinners, for the sake of Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

13th.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the son of God ? 1 *John* v. 5.

Blessed Jesus ! beset as we are with snares and dangers, compassed with infirmities, and utterly unable to help or defend ourselves ; we would lift up our eyes to the hills from whence alone our help can come. We would implore such grace from Thee, that believing fully, and relying entirely on Thee, we may be daily fighting the good fight of faith, as armed with the whole armour of God ; and at length, by faith, may overcome the world, even as Thou hast overcome it for us, of Thine infinite mercy. Amen.

14th.

As for me, I will call upon God ; and the Lord shall save me. Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud : and he shall hear my voice. *Psalms* lv. 16, 17.

Oh Thou from whom, if we have not, it is because we ask not ; we pray Thee so to dispose our hearts, that, whatever be the false refuges of others, the voice of our cry may come up before *Thee* continually. To Thee may we daily offer the first and best of our time ; and calling upon Thee with the morning dawn, the evening shades, and amidst the burden and heat of the day, in earnest constancy, may we enjoy the happy confidence that Thou wilt both hear our voice, and come and save us from the hourly perils of our lives, for the sake of Thy dear Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

15th.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts ii. 39.

Father of mercies, and God of all grace, who hast given unto us so many exceeding great and precious promises; suffer us not to forget that they are all yea and Amen, only in Christ Jesus. And while we thankfully receive and acknowledge them *all*; may we prize supremely *the* promise of Thy Spirit and eternal life, through the precious blood-shedding of Him who died for our offences, rose again for our justification, and ever liveth to make intercession for us, to whom be endless glory, honor, and praise. Amen.

16th.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts ii. 39.

Oh Lord God, whose promise, once restricted to Abraham, and his seed according to the flesh, is now graciously extended to those who then sat in darkness: strengthen our faith, we pray Thee, not only to receive it fully ourselves, but to watch for the souls that are near and dear to us, that remain far off, even in the midst of the light: and keep us looking for the time when Thy call shall be heard through the whole earth, and He who is exalted to be a prince and a Saviour, shall indeed be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel, for ever and ever. Amen.

17th.

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should afterwards receive for an inheritance, obeyed ; and he went out, not knowing whither he went, &c. *Heb.* xi. 8, 9, 10.

Implant, oh Lord, we beseech Thee, in our unbelieving hearts, more of the spirit of faithful Abraham. And since Thou callest us to arise and possess a better inheritance than an earthly Canaan, oh may we be continually looking for the city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker thou art ; dwelling as long as Thou seest fit, in the earthly house of these tabernacles, as sojourners in a strange country, and walking obediently in the way Thou settest before us, as knowing assuredly whither we go, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

18th.

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures. *James* i. 18.

Oh God our Creator, who, of Thine own free grace alone, hast called us, unworthy sinners out of our spiritual as well as natural nothingness, having begotten us by the word of Thy truth, the Gospel of Thy Son ; grant that being thus made new creatures by adoption and grace, we may dedicate ourselves, body, soul, and spirit, unto Thee : and longing and labouring to bring others to glorify Thee also, may ourselves be a kind of first-fruits of Thy creatures, through him whose One oblation sanctifieth both the giver and the gift. Amen.

19th.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God : and the prisoners heard them. *Acts xvi. 25.*

Oh Thou whose rich and distinguishing mercies we are so slow and half hearted in acknowledging; give us more of that spirit in which Thy servants of old could rise at midnight, amidst affliction, persecution, and peril, not only to *pray*, but to *sing praises* unto Thee. Oh give us also "songs in the night;" and grant, notwithstanding our faithlessness and short comings, that the blessed effects of thy Gospel on our hearts and lives, may be increasingly manifested to all around us, to the praise and glory of Thy name, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

20th.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. *Psaln cxix. 11.*

Oh Thou to whom all hearts are naked and open; we have but too constant cause to mourn over proofs, that in the dark chambers of imagery within our corrupt hearts, there lies concealed our worst enemy, even the sin that doth so easily beset us. Oh grant that there also we may hide Thy word, which alone can shew us the evil, defend us against its present crafts and assaults, and finally deliver us from them all; being applied by Thy Spirit, through Him who, as the Word made flesh, dwelt among us, That we might behold His glory for ever. Amen.

21st.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. *Psaln cxix. 11.*

Pardon, oh most merciful Lord, we pray Thee, any disregard or indifference of heart, whether avowed or more latent, which Thy pure eyes may have seen in us, to that blessed word of Thine, which is alike and alone profitable for doctrine, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness: and knowing it to be our only safeguard from sin and Satan, may we not only hear it with our outward ears, but have it inwardly engrafted and hidden in our hearts; and with it, as the sword of the Spirit, withstand in the evil day, and overcome at the last, for Christ's sake. Amen.

22nd.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me. *Psaln cxlii. 3.*

Heavenly Father, without whose all-wise and gracious permission, no perplexity, temptation, or sorrow, can threaten to overwhelm our spirits: give us grace continually to rejoice in the certainty that *Thou* knowest our path, when we know it not ourselves; and knowest it, not only as the Omniscient Jehovah, but as the unfailing guide of all Thine own children, who, though Thou see fit to lead them through fire and through water, wilt yet assuredly at last bring them out into a wealthy place, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

23rd.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord. *Psalms* iv. 5.

Oh holy Lord, who looketh not to the outward appearance, but to the heart, and to whom the sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination : we beseech Thee so to cleanse us from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, that we may perfect holiness in Thy fear, and thus be prepared to offer Thee the sacrifices of righteousness : while yet, knowing the worthlessness and defilement of all that we can present to Thee from a world where all is polluted, we would put our trust wholly and unreservedly in the Lord Jesus Christ, as our Righteousness, our Hope, and our Salvation, for ever. Amen.

24th.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. *1 Pet.* v. 10.

Oh Thou God of all grace, who hast, we trust, of Thine infinite mercy, called us by Christ Jesus, to that eternal glory with which the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared : enable us meekly and thankfully to receive any discipline Thou mayest see good to appoint for us, as means to stablish, strengthen, settle, our wavering hearts, if only, like the great Captain of our salvation, we may thus, after a while, be made perfect through suffering, and thus meet for His glory, that we may praise Him eternally. Amen.

25th.

But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice : for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. *Matt. ix. 13.*

Oh Thou who camest not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, we pray Thee to keep us from the self-righteous, exclusive, and intolerant spirit of the Pharisee, and to bring us to Thyself as penitent sinners, relying on no deeds of the law, or works of righteousness that we can do ; but looking to Thy mercy, and not to our sacrifices ; and ourselves learning both to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee. Thus may we learn rightly to understand Thy word, and share in the joy of the holy angels over every repenting sinner Thou receivest, for Thy great mercy's sake. Amen.

26th.

Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy : when I fall, I shall arise ; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

Micah vii. 8.

Oh Lord, our Light and our Salvation, Thou callest us to war the good warfare. Thou knowest all our weaknesses, infirmities, corruptions, and foes. Oh teach us how to take hold on Thy strength, and Thine only, and *thus* to take heed lest we fall. May we never do so, without an instant effort, by Thy grace, to rise again ; nor ever find ourselves in darkness, without humbly pleading Thy promise to be a light unto us, through Him who deigned experimentally to share our temptations, and now lives to save us from them for ever. Amen.

27th.

No man can serve two masters : for either he will hate the one, and love the other ; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.' *Matt. vi 24.*

Oh Thou whom we can never serve with acceptance, unless we give Thee our undivided hearts : deliver us, we pray Thee, from every lingering thought of uniting Thy service with that of the world : and grant that, taking *One* to be our Master, even Christ, we may turn our backs on the world, to which we profess to be crucified for His sake, despising and hating all that would oppose His reign within us, or around us ; loving Him with all our hearts, and serving Him with all our powers, and thus being blessed in Him for ever. Amen.

28th.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. *Zech. iv. 6.*

Lord of all power and might, who doest all things after the counsel of Thine own will, and knowest all our strength to be perfect weakness : cause us, we beseech Thee, so to cease from all self-dependencies, that we may be continually strengthened with might by Thy Spirit within us. Thus out of weakness may we be made strong to vanquish all our spiritual foes ; and look for the accomplishment of all Thy glorious promises to ourselves and Thy whole Church, through the out-pouring of Thy Spirit, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

29th.

O inhabitant of Lebanon, that makes thy nest in the cedars, how gracious shalt thou be when pangs come upon thee, the pain as of a woman in travail? *Jer. xxii. 23.*

Preserve us, oh Lord, we entreat Thee, from ever following the steps, or sharing the doom, of those who exalt themselves to make their nest in the cedars, and who shall be abased with shame and sorrow to the dust. Oh do Thou deliver us from all exaltation in our own eyes; and from every sinful desire after earthly greatness, or the honour that cometh from men: and grant that while the rebellious so vainly exalt themselves, we may, as humble followers of the Lamb, grow up before Thee for ever, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

30th.

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, &c. *Mal. iii. 16.*

Oh Lord God of Hosts, who doest wondrous things for Thy people; we pray that we may be indeed numbered with them. Oh may we fear Thee with filial fear; serve Thee with filial service; think upon Thy great name, and speak often of it one to another: and then do Thou graciously hearken and hear, pity and spare us; write us in Thy book of remembrance, and pronounce us Thine, in that day when Thou makest up Thy jewels; not for the sake of any thing we have or are; but only for the sake of Jesus Thy beloved Son. Amen.

31st.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? *Psalms cxxxix. 7.*

Omnipresent and Omniscient Jehovah; from whom we *cannot* flee; well may we ask, to whom *should* we go, since Thou alone hast the words of eternal life. Oh do Thou daily deepen our experimental conviction, that where Thy *Spirit* dwells and reigns, even on earth, there alone is life, and light, and liberty; while in Thy *presence* above alone is fulness of joy. Lead us then by Thy Spirit, in the way everlasting; and when Thou hast sanctified as well as searched us, receive us to Thy Glory, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

AUGUST.

1st.

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men, &c. *1 Thess. i. 5.*

Oh Thou who hast given the light of the glorious Gospel to the nations that once sat in darkness: we bless Thee not for its word only, but for some measure of that power from on high, which alone can render it effectual, even the mighty power of the Holy Ghost. Oh do Thou so shed forth this, more and more abundantly upon us, that we may enjoy the full assurance of understanding, of faith, and of hope; till by Thy grace upon earth, we are prepared for Thy glory in heaven, through our Lord Jesus Christ alone. Amen.

2nd.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. *Jude 20, 21.*

Blessed Lord, who alone canst work in us either to will or to do, of Thy good pleasure: give us, we beseech Thee, Thy Holy Ghost, that His mighty power being made perfect in our weakness, we may, as beloved of Thee and of Thy Church, pray in the Spirit; keep ourselves in the love of God; build up ourselves on our most holy faith; and be ever looking through the mist and veil of temporal things, for the merey of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And to the Father, Son, and Spirit, be equal and endless praises. Amen.

3rd.

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. *Mark ix. 23.*

Oh Thou whom, without faith, it is impossible to please ; and who knowest we can only truly believe, according to the grace Thou givest us ; increase and strengthen within us, we beseech Thee, the power of faith ; that so, under all the varying circumstances of our lives, we may rest satisfied that all things needful for *us* are both *possible* with Thee, and shall not fail to be accomplished for us in Thine own good time, not for any worthiness that is in us or in our faith, but according to Thy rich mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

4th.

And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. *Rom. iv. 21.*

Bestow upon us, Oh Lord, we entreat Thee, such a full persuasion of Thine ability to perform every gracious word contained in Thy Holy Scriptures of promise ; that faith being strong, amidst the weakness of our mortal nature, we may never be suffered to stagger at any of Thy wonders of grace, and lovingkindness ; but following in the steps of the father of the faithful, may be daily giving glory to Thee, while we go on our way rejoicing in all Thou hast done and wilt do for us, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

5th.

Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?

John viii. 26.

Blessed Jesus, who, in the days of Thy flesh, wast known and acknowledged by few of the rulers of this world: we thank Thee for having given us to know that Thou art indeed the very Christ, anointed of the Father to be our Prophet, Priest, and King. Oh grant that taking Thee fully and joyfully to be unto us a Prince and a Saviour, we may never shrink from the confession of Thee before men; but may be found among those whom Thou wilt confess, when Thou comest again in glory everlasting. Amen.

6th.

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. *2 Cor. ix. 10.*

Oh Thou, who alone canst give either the good seed or its increase; we would implore a large measure of it to be ministered to the ordained and appointed sowers of it amongst us: that so, while in Thy name, they minister bread for our food, the seed sown may be largely multiplied, and the fruits of our righteousness made to increase and abound, to Thy glory and our own good. And may we also, according to the grace given us, be permitted to share the privilege of sowing and reaping in Thy name, ever rendering to Thee all the praise, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

7th.

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound : they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day : and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. *Psalms lxxxix. 15, 16.*

Gracious Saviour, who hast so richly blessed us, in numbering us among the people who know the joyful sound of Thy Gospel : grant that, humbling ourselves in the dust on account of our own unworthiness, we may, in Thy righteousness be exalted : that seeking no other name than Thine to plead for acceptance with the Father, we may rejoice in Thine all the day long : and that walking ever in Thy holy ways, we may enjoy continually the light of Thy reconciled countenance, for Thine own great mercy's sake. Amen.

8th.

And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judea and Jerusalem, &c. *Luke vi. 17, 18, 19.*

Oh Thou whose course upon earth was marked by unwearièd mercy both to the bodies and souls of men : increase daily, we pray Thee, the number of those who now come to Thy throne of grace in the heavens, there both to hear Thee, and to be healed of Thee. And grant, since there is indeed virtue in Thee to heal us all, that every symptom of our spiritual diseases, and every vexation of the evil spirit or his emissaries, may bring us at once to Thy feet, there to be dealt with according to Thine infinite mercy. Amen.

9th.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. *Gen. i. 1.*

Oh God, the Creator, grant that the contemplation of Thy wisdom in founding the earth, and Thine understanding in establishing the heavens, may lead us upward to the yet more stupendous wonders of Thy new creation. Oh as Thou calledst the whole heavens and the earth into existence with Thy word, so Thou wouldst create us anew in Him, who as *the Word*, was then with God, and was God; that so we may be kept ever looking joyfully for the new heavens and new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness for ever, for His sake. Amen.

10th.

And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. *Gen. i. 2.*

Almighty God, who didst at first, by Thy Spirit, transform that which was without form and void, into all the beauty and excellence of the natural world around us: look with compassion, we beseech Thee, on the gross darkness which now spiritually covers the earth; and so cause the Spirit of light and of power again to move on the face of *these* dark waters, that the regions which have hitherto been empty and void and waste, as it regards Thy praise, may resound with the joyful sound of Thy gospel, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

11th.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light, &c. *Gen.* i. 3, 4, 5.

Oh Thou, at whose word the primeval darkness in a moment fled away, and it was light; with Thee alone is the fountain of life; and in Thy light alone can we see light. Speak, we beseech Thee, the same all-powerful word again; that as in the blessed morning of a first day to our once benighted souls, the darkness may more and more pass away, as the bright beams of the Sun of righteousness are shed abroad upon them, to purify, to warm, and to bless them for ever, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

12th.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, &c. *Gen.* i. 6—13.

Oh Thou, the Creator of the ends of the earth, who faintest not, neither art weary; may we contemplate all the marvellous works of Thy creating hand, which were in succession pronounced "very good," with devout admiration; and look through them all to Thee their Maker and Governor. And while all these Thy works do and must unconsciously praise Thee; may we, with all the company of Thy saints, in heaven and earth, laud, magnify, and bless Thee with our whole hearts, for ever and ever, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

18th.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years, &c. *Gen. i. 14-23.*

Oh Lord, the heavens declare to us Thy glory, and the firmament sheweth Thy handy work. Grant, therefore, that Thy covenant of the day, and of the night, of summer and winter, seed-time and harvest, may ever testify to us of Thy power and faithfulness: while yet we rejoice more in the clearer, fuller revelation of Thyself, mercifully given us in Thy word; and seek to be instructed in Thy ways, not only as the God of nature, but far more as the God of all grace, in and through Thy dear Son, Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

14th.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so, &c. *Gen. i. 24, 25.*

Oh Thou, whose are all the fowls of the mountains, and the cattle upon a thousand hills; help us to trace something of Thine eternal power and Godhead in those things which Thou hast made: and while conscientiously and mercifully exercising that dominion Thou hast given to man over the inferior orders of creation; may we be humbled by the thought of their all groaning and travailling together for our sin; and render Thee that service with both lips and lives, which they cannot, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

15th.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, &c. *Gen. i. 26-28.*

Oh Thou, who didst make man in Thine own image, after Thy likeness, pure, upright, holy, and happy; let it humble us in the dust to consider not only our sad inheritance of corruption from our fallen parents, but also the extent to which we have ourselves turned Thy blessings into curses, by rejecting Thy grace. Oh do Thou now excite and fulfil more and more in us the desire to be raised from our ruined condition, by being renewed in knowledge and true holiness after our Saviour's image, that in Him we may again be blessed for ever. Amen.

16th.

And God said, Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed, &c. *Gen. i. 29-31.*

Lord and Maker of heaven and earth, who providest food for man and beast: give us grace so to use every creature of Thine to Thy glory, that notwithstanding the grievous change that has passed on all Thine earthly works, since they were at first pronounced "very good," we may still feel all to be good, and nothing to be refused, being received with thanksgiving, and sanctified by Thy word and prayer. And while Thou continuest to fill all things living with plenteousness, Oh do Thou feed our *souls* with the bread of life, which Thou only canst give, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

17th.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day, &c. *Gen. ii. 1-3.*

Lord of the Sabbath; who, not for Thine own sake, but for our's, didst institute, and sanctify, and bless it, by resting on the seventh day from Thine own most wondrous six days work; we implore Thy heavenly benediction, to give efficacy to Thy gracious appointment. Grant that being wholly sanctified by us, and abundantly blessed to us, it may ever prove a time of refreshing from Thy presence, and a preparation for that eternal Sabbath-keeping on high, when those who have finished their work, and kept the faith, shall rest for ever with Thee, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

18th.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. *Gen. ii. 7.*

Oh Lord God; impress us daily, we entreat Thee, with the humble origin of these mortal bodies from the dust of the ground, and their speedy return to the earth from whence they were taken: and while, with the first Adam, we are made living souls, as Thou breathest into our nostrils that breath of life, which a moment may withdraw, and we die; Oh may it be our great anxiety and care, that the quickening spirit of the second Adam may so raise us to glory, and honour, and immortality, that we may pass from death to life everlasting, in and through Him. Amen.

19th.

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, &c. *Gen. ii. 15-17.*

Help us, O Lord, our God, so to regard Thine own appointments for man, in his original happy innocence, that we may now strive diligently and faithfully to do Thy pleasure wherever Thou placest us: receiving with thanksgiving all Thou still permittest us richly to enjoy, and fully satisfied with the limits Thou seest fit to prescribe to our knowledge and indulgences. Thus may we gladly take on us the easy yoke of Thy commandments, both as they regard duties and restrictions, and in serving Thee, find great reward, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

20th.

And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help-meet for him. *Gen. ii. 18.*

Blessed Lord, whose institutions for man all display Thine infinite wisdom and goodness, appointing that which is truly good for him; we thank Thee that even in our lost and ruined condition, Thou hast sentenced none of us to be absolutely alone: and we entreat Thy grace for the faithful discharge of all the duties involved in our various social relations; that as members of one great family, we may love one another with a pure heart fervently, be ready to bear one another's burdens, and by love serve one another, still loving and serving Thee supremely, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

21st.

He spake also this parable ; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard ; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none, &c. *Luke xliii. 6, 7.*

Blessed Lord, who in causing us to be planted in Thy vineyard, didst choose and ordain us to bring forth fruit unto Thee ; we must indeed take shame to ourselves, on a review of all the years, during which Thou hast come and sought it of us in vain. We bless Thee, that through Thy forbearance, we were not, long ago, cut down as cumberers of the ground ; and we pray, that since Thou still bestowest on us Thy ceaseless care and culture, we may yield henceforth, not only the fair leaves of profession, but the good fruits of holiness, to Thy glory, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

22nd.

And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it : And if it bear fruit, well : and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down. *Luke xliii. 8, 9.*

Oh Thou, the great Intercessor, whom the Father heareth always, and through whom, we, who deserve judgment, can look for mercy ; we pray for grace to profit by all those Thy dealings, which are intended to change the wilderness into a fruitful field, and the cumberer of the ground into a tree of righteousness : that so, being no longer barren or unfruitful, the sparing mercy we have from year to year experienced, may not increase our final condemnation, but that we may grow up before Thee, and be one with Thee for ever. Amen.

23rd.

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 1 Cor. xi. 28.

Grant Lord, we pray Thee, that a prayerful, faithful, and frequent examination of our hearts, may produce in us such a deep consciousness of our utter unworthiness, as shall lead us to cast ourselves implicitly and exclusively on the worthiness of Christ, our all in all. Thus may we never be suffered to eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord unworthily; but remembering His death for us, and feeding on Him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving, may we expect every thing from Him, perform every thing in Him, and ascribe every thing to Him; now and for ever. Amen.

24th.

Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that are far from righteousness: I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry, &c. *Isaiah* xlv. 12, 13.

Oh Thou who art God alone: it is to Thy free grace we owe it, that we were not left among the "stout-hearted," who are far from that only righteousness by which sinners can find acceptance with Thee. Oh grant that the salvation Thou hast graciously placed in Zion, may be brought nearer and nearer to our hearts, nor tarry, till it take full and entire possession of them; that so, having part and inheritance with Thy spiritual Israel, we may strive to glorify Thee, and be honored with the wondrous name given them, of *Thy glory*, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

25th.

O God, my heart is fixed ; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. *Psaln cviii. 1.*

Oh God, whose constraining grace alone can give any stedfastness of purpose to hearts prone, like ours, to start aside from Thee as a broken bow : so take them, we beseech Thee, into Thy keeping, that they may be indeed *fixed* and wander no more : and since, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh, oh grant that our tongues may from this time forth become our *glory*, by being ever vocal with Thy praise ; that so we may be continually ready, both with heart and tongue, to sing in Thy ways, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

26th.

Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. *Matt. xxiv. 46, 47.*

Oh Lord Jesu Christ, we trust we belong to the privileged number of Thy faithful, though most unworthy servants. We pray Thee therefore, so to endue us with the influences of Thy grace and Holy Spirit, that we may be ever found both watching and working for Thee : that so, whenever Thou our Lord shall come, whether at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning, Thou mayest find us so doing, and pronounce us blessed, notwithstanding all our short comings and misdoings, for Thine own great mercy's sake. Amen.

27th.

For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord. 1 *Thess.* iii. 8.

Blessed Lord, on whom alone all our hopes are built, and separate from whom we can do nothing: pardon, we entreat Thee, all our past waverings of heart, and strengthen us from this time forth, to *stand fast* in Thee. Nor let an anxious concern for the spiritual and eternal life of others, be restricted to those who are ministerially appointed to be "watchers for souls;" but may we in all our earthly ties, feel our own life to be bound up in the life of those we love, longing and labouring that we may be *all One* in Christ Jesus, now and for ever. Amen.

28th.

Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ. *Eph.* iii. 8.

Oh Thou with whose saints we hope to be numbered in glory everlasting; grant that something more like an adequate sense of our own worthlessness and nothingness than we have ever yet had, may prepare us to form a more due estimate of those unsearchable riches of Christ, by which alone such honor could be purchased for us. And seeking it ourselves in Him and Him alone, may we watch for opportunities of declaring His name and His salvation, wherever Thy good Providence places us, for His sake. Amen.

29th.

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. *Selah.*

Psalms lxxxvii. 3.

Oh God the Lord, who lovest, and hast indeed spoken glorious things of that City of God, the heavenly Zion, whose foundations are in the mountains of Thy holiness: grant that our worthless names may be enrolled among its citizens; and that we may be so endued with power from on high, as to be prepared to act, in all things, as becometh such; feeling ourselves to be ever upheld and guided by Thy Spirit, as well as saved by Thy Son, who is Himself the Foundation and Chief Corner-stone, now and for ever. Amen.

30th.

Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of? *Isaiah ii. 22.*

Oh Lord God of Hosts, whose sure word it is, that the idols Thou wilt utterly abolish: teach us, we pray Thee, to beware of the sin and folly of setting our hearts inordinately on any created good: and grant that while all the most pleasant pictures of earth are perpetually fading away before our eyes, we may so cease from man, and his works and ways, as to have Thee alone exalted in our hearts, that they may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found, when no others are to be accounted of, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

31st.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Heb. xi. 1, 2.

Give us grace, Oh Lord, we beseech Thee, with all the great cloud of witnessing elders, to walk by faith; and through it, to obtain that good report which neither they nor we could ever claim by doings of our own. Oh grant that while following in their steps, and looking unto Jesus as more clearly set forth to us than to them, faith may impart to the things unseen and eternal, such full evidence, and substantial confidence, that we may go on our way rejoicing, till with them we are made perfect in and through our blessed Saviour, Christ Jesus. Amen.

SEPTEMBER.

1st.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works, &c. *Titus* iii. 8.

Oh Thou, who lovest righteousness, and art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; preserve us from all danger of in any way turning Thy grace into licentiousness: and while we utterly disclaim all reliance on "good works" of our own, and seek to be saved only according to Thy mercy, and to be justified freely by Thy grace; may we yet carefully, constantly, and diligently. affirm with our lips, and maintain by our lives, all which Thou hast pronounced good and profitable unto men, and ordained of Thee for us to walk in, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

2nd.

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers. *Isa.* xxx. 30.

Blessed Lord, from whose fulness alone we can receive our supplies of daily bread, either for body or soul; with-hold not Thou Thine hand, we entreat Thee; but ever bestow upon us all that Thou seest to be needful or profitable for us. And though Thou shouldest appoint us bread of adversity, and water of affliction, yet may we live upon Thy promises; and our eyes see a Teacher from Thee in every change, and our ears be opened in all, to hear Thy voice saying to us, This is the way, that so, by Thy teaching, we may be brought to Thy glory, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

3rd.

The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day : the father to the children shall make known thy truth. *Isa. xxxviii. 19.*

Oh Lord our God, who hast bound us to Thyself by ten thousand obligations ; grant that, while neither they who are gone down without hope to the grave, nor they who are yet spiritually dead, in the land of the living, can celebrate Thy mercies, we may praise Thee day by day, among those whom Thou hast raised from a death in sin to a life of righteousness : and striving to make known Thy truth from generation to generation, may be made meet to live unto Thee for ever, where life will be one unending glow of rapture, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

4th.

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children : for blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. *Prov. viii. 32, 33.*

Heavenly Father, Thou hast nourished and brought us up as children ; but we have, alas, grievously rebelled against Thee in the time of our natural ignorance and alienation. Oh pardon us, whereinsoever we have refused the blessing of Thine instructions in time past : dispose us henceforth, in a humble and teachable spirit, to hearken to Thy voice : and grant that being made thus wise unto salvation, through Him who is Himself the wisdom of God, we may partake in the blessedness of those who keep Thy ways, for His sake alone. Amen.

5th.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him ; and he will shew them his covenant. *Psalms xxv. 14.*

Oh Thou who alone givest wisdom, and who hidest things oftentimes from the wise and prudent, to reveal them unto babes : we pray that although Thy ways, so far from being as our ways, are indeed past finding out, and far above out of our sight ; yet so much of Thy "secret" may be with us as it concerns us to know, even all that accompanies salvation, and belongs to our peace ; that so, being taught of Thee in the way that Thou shalt choose, we may be blessed with the blessing of such as fear Thy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

6th.

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him ; and he will shew them his covenant. *Psalms xxv. 14.*

Oh Lord our God, whose word of promise is made sure to Thy people by the bonds of an everlasting covenant ; shew it, we beseech Thee unto *us*, and make us to know it, as ordered in all things and sure, through Him with whom Thou hadst chosen to make it, before the foundation of the world. Oh may we rejoice in the safety and blessing it offers to the perishing sinner ; and prove ourselves included in it, by walking in Thy fear : thus, while doing Thy will, knowing more and more of Thy wondrous doctrine, through the same, Christ Jesus. Amen.

7th.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, &c. *Mat. x. 32, 33.*

Blessed Jesus, who permittest us to be called by Thy name; pity, we beseech Thee, that weakness of our mortal nature, which would ever shrink from the acknowledgment of its highest honor. Oh save us from the guilt and condemnation of those who deny Thee before men: and grant that boldly confessing the faith of Christ crucified; and rejoicing, if counted worthy to suffer shame even for Thy name, we may be confessed of Thee at the last before Thy Father in heaven, and be neither ashamed nor confounded, world without end. Amen.

8th.

Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. *Rom. xiv. 16, 17.*

Help us, Gracious Lord, we pray Thee, while striving, through Thy grace, to walk in all *Thy* commandments and ordinances blameless; to watch lest we become servilely or uncharitably subject to any that are of *men*, as if we thought Thy kingdom consisted in meats and drinks and outward observances. Oh enable us rather to prove its establishment within us, and prevent our good being evil spoken of, by the fruits of righteousness towards Thee, of peace with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and of joy in the Holy Ghost, for His sake. Amen.

9th.

For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 1 Cor. xi. 31, 32.

Oh Thou, who, in the midst of judgment rememberest mercy; we confess with shame how few, and slight, and defective have been all our examinations of our own hearts and lives; and how justly on this account Thou mightest condemn us with the world. Oh let the blessed hope of deliverance from its final doom, prepare us to praise Thee because of those righteous judgments, which we may regard as a Father's chastenings, to meeten us for the inheritance of children, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

10th.

When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Mark ii. 17.

Oh Thou great Physician, to whom alone belongs the power to heal either the maladies of these bodies of sin and death, or the far worse diseases that afflict our souls: we rejoice that to Thee it is as easy to say, "Thy sins be forgiven Thee," as to say, "Arise and walk." Oh may we so feel ourselves to be sick, yea, wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; that fleeing to Thee who alone canst make us whole, we may experience Thine ability and willingness to heal us, and be made altogether new creatures, for Thy great mercy's sake. Amen.

11th.

For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death, &c. 2 Cor. ii. 15, 16.

Thanks be unto Thee, oh Lord, for having revealed to us the knowledge of Thy Son. Oh do Thou bless us more and more abundantly, with the blessing of those who are unto *Thee* a sweet savour of Christ: and utterly insufficient as we are of ourselves for any good word or work, grant that through vital union with Him, we may become so also in all situations and companies to which Thou mayest call us, striving to make manifest the savour of His knowledge in every place, not as of death unto death, but of life unto life, for ever. Amen.

12th.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms xli. 1.

Oh Thou, who not only knowest, but appointest all the varied circumstances of our lives, that shew us our need of a refuge, a strength, and a present help, such as no human power can afford; grant that every time of trouble may lead us the more entirely and unreservedly to cast ourselves upon Thee, knowing ourselves utterly helpless and defenceless, except we are *in* Thee; but prepared not to fear though the earth be removed, if Thou the Lord of Hosts wilt be with us, as our God and Father in Christ Jesus. Amen.

13th.

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. *2 Cor. vi. 1.*

Oh Lord and Heavenly Father, who, of Thine infinite mercy, hast caused that grace of Thine which bringeth salvation to appear unto us; we pray Thee so to rule our whole hearts and lives, that we may in no way receive it in vain. Rather, having been ourselves succoured in the day of salvation, may we aspire to the glorious privilege of becoming workers together with Thee, by beseeching others also to seek reconciliation with Thee in an accepted time, through Christ Jesus Thy Son. Amen.

14th.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. *James i. 27.*

Oh Lord most holy; we should indeed vainly hope to present anything of our's before Thee, as pure and undefiled: yet we desire, through Thy grace assisting us, to exhibit something of the excellence of the religion of Jesus; and pray for more and more grace, to tread in His steps, visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction, in His spirit, and aiming to keep ourselves unspotted from a world that lieth in wickedness, because it hateth Him who came to save it. Oh hear and answer us for his sake, Amen.

15th.

Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, &c. *Luke xlii. 23, 24.*

Lord teach us to shun all questions that are unprofitable and vain; and may our enquiry be, not, "are there *few*," but "What must *I* do to be saved." Oh that blessing Thee for Thy free invitation to all, we may be most concerned to prove that we have truly entered in at the strait gate, by walking consistently in the narrow way. Thus seeking in this the accepted time, may we in that awful day when many shall seek to enter in too late, and therefore not be able, praise Thee with the multitude which no man can number, through Christ Jesus, Amen.

16th.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul! and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. *Psalms xliii. 5.*

Pity and pardon, oh merciful Lord, we entreat Thee, that weakness of our mortal nature, which causes our souls to be so often cast down or disquieted within us, because of Thy righteous judgments: and since Thou, the God of hope, dost graciously permit us to call Thee *our* God, oh strengthen our weak faith to know Thee, as the health of our countenance, to hope in Thee continually, and yet to praise Thee more and more as the God of our strength on earth, till Thou become our exceeding joy in Thy holy hill above, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

17th.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. *John* iii. 3.

Oh Thou who art alike the God of providence and the God of grace, it is to Thine unmerited mercy alone that we must ascribe alike the advantages attending the time and place of our natural birth, and the better privileges and hopes belonging to those who are born again of water and of the Spirit. Oh that *those* may be our happy portion; that being thus born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of Thee, we may belong to Thy kingdom of grace on earth, and enter with joy Thy kingdom of glory above, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

18th.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. *Mat.* xxvi. 27, 28.

Gracious Saviour, may we receive with glad thanksgiving the cup of salvation of which Thou freely invitest us all to drink; blessing Thee for not having rather put into our hands that bitter cup of wrath and agony, which Thou wast content to drink even to the dregs, for our sakes. Oh give us grace to realize something of the preciousness of that blood of the New Testament, which is shed for us and for many, for the remission of sins, and to praise Thee more worthily as the Lamb that was slain for us, both now and for evermore. Amen.

19th.

The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it ?

John xviii. 11.

Oh Thou who permittest us to call Thee Father, as accepted in Jesus the Beloved; Thou knowest our feeble nature would vainly strive to drink the cup Thou wast pleased to give Him in our stead. Yet grant us such a measure of His entire acquiescence in all Thy holy righteous will, that whatever kind or measure of bitterness it may seem good to Thee to infuse in *our* cup of undeserved and overflowing mercy, we may be prepared to receive it from our Father's hand, without murmuring or doubting, to His glory, and our own good. Amen.

20th.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Rom. vi. 11.*

Oh Thou whose blessed Son was manifested that He might take away sins; grant that He may indeed bless us, by turning away every one of us from our iniquities. And though we have too often, alas, to mourn the remaining power of inbred corruption, uniting against us with the assaults of the Tempter from without; yet while striving daily to crucify the flesh, may we be able, through Thy grace assisting us, to reckon ourselves as dying, if not yet dead unto sin, and alive unto Thee, with and through Christ Jesus Thy Son our Lord. Amen.

21st.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 1 John v. 11.

Oh God, Thy record concerning our guilty race might justly have been one, not of mercy, but of condemnation. But since Thy thoughts towards us have been thoughts of peace and not of evil, in that Thou art ready to give us the free and inestimable gift of eternal life in Thy Son; oh incline our hearts humbly, fully and thankfully to receive so great salvation: and enable us to live now to Him who purchased it for us with His own most precious blood, as we hope to live *with* Him hereafter in His everlasting kingdom. Amen.

22nd.

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. Heb. viii. 6.

Oh Thou, our Great High Priest, who art the Minister of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man; we entreat that the influences of Thy Spirit may so enlighten our understandings, and affect our hearts, that in looking back to that dispensation which was of old, a shadow of better things to come, we may worthily praise Thee for the more excellent ministry, the better covenant, and the more fully established promises, which Thou hast obtained for us through Thy one sacrifice and mediation; and as comers thereunto be made perfect in Thee for ever. Amen.

23rd.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, &c. *Heb. xii. 1.*

Author and Finisher of our faith, who hast given grace to all the great cloud of witnesses that compass us about, to follow Thy steps of deep humiliation, and then to share Thy glory at the right hand of the Majesty on high; keep us, we beseech Thee, so looking in like manner unto Thee, that we may be enabled to lay aside every encumbering weight of care, and every easily besetting sin that would impede our spiritual progress; and so run with patience the great race set before us, that we also may obtain, and triumph with them in Thee for ever. Amen.

24th.

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. *James ii. 12.*

We bless Thee, Oh Maker of all things, and Judge of all men, for redemption, both from the bondage of the ceremonial, and the curse of the moral law, by which no flesh living could be justified in Thy sight. Oh grant that while taking on us the easy yoke of the Gospel, we may make the royal law of love our daily rule of life, and ever strive so to speak and so to do, as they that shall be judged by the perfect law of liberty, thus rendering Thee willing service, under Thy new and better covenant with poor sinners, in Jesus their Saviour. Amen.

25th.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, &c. 1 *Pet.* i. 3-5.

Oh Thou our God of blessing and Father of mercies in Christ Jesus; teach us how to meditate continually on that abundant *mercy* which has prepared and reserved for us unworthy sinners the heavenly inheritance; and on that mighty *power* by which alone we can be kept for it: that so we may increase and abound more and more in steadfast faith and lively hope, through Him whose death and resurrection obtained for us the great salvation, which is ready to be revealed in the last time, the inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, even Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

26th.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. *John* xvi. 7.

Oh Thou who knowest all our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking, and who alone canst fulfil our desires: we pray Thee to give or to take away, not according to our imperfect sense of good, but as Thou in Thine infinite wisdom seest to be truly expedient for us; enabling us alike in all to bless Thy holy name. And even shouldest Thou for a time see fit to withdraw from us Thy manifested presence, which is better to us than life, still give us to know that the promised Comforter, though unseen, does and shall abide with us for ever, for His sake who departed that He might send Him to us. Amen.

27th.

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me, &c. *Johs xvi. 8-11.*

Spirit of all grace and truth, whose office it is to convince as well as comfort: take, we pray Thee of the things of Christ, and shew them to us. Oh deign to guide us further into all truth concerning *ourselves*, of our grievous sin and unbelief; concerning *Christ*, of that only righteousness by which we can be justified, which he died to purchase, and lives again, though unseen, to bestow; and concerning the *Prince of this world*, and all that are his, of the approaching judgment, from which we would flee for refuge to the hope set before us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

28th.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend, &c. *Jude 3.*

Heal, oh God of peace, we entreat Thee, all those unhappy divisions which rend the body of Thy holy Catholic church; and pour forth on all who are heirs of the common salvation, the Spirit of unity and Christian fellowship: that so, as mutually beloved in the Lord, our personal diligence, our fervent exhortations to each other, and our earnest contentions, may never more regard any points of mere party difference, but only that true faith which was once delivered unto the saints; while that, we seek to hold pure and undefiled, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

29th.

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. *John xvi. 33.*

Oh Thou who art the Prince of Peace, give us hearts we pray Thee, so to receive of Thee, *all* those things which belong to *our* peace, that none of the tribulations which Thou preparest us to expect in this world may surprise or overwhelm us: but that counting them all to be a measure of fellowship in Thy sufferings, we may through Thy Spirit, in due time, overcome the world, as Thou hast overcome the world. And while called to be *in* it, though we trust not *of* it, may peace with God, with our own consciences, and with all around, make us of good cheer, and prepare us for Thy kingdom. Amen.

30th.

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. *Rom. xiv. 19.*

Oh God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, with whom we trust we are at peace through Him; we entreat that his Spirit dwelling in us may cause us to follow such things as are acceptable in Thy sight. May we learn not only to avoid all needless occasions of strife; but also make the two-fold object of our daily and diligent pursuit, the things which make for peace, and which tend to mutual edification. Thus may we follow in His most blessed steps, who is Himself our peace, and who pleased not Himself. We ask it for His sake alone. Amen.

OCTOBER.

1st.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. *Acts ii. 1.*

Oh Lord the Spirit, whose wonder-working power was once poured forth in such rich abundance on Those who were waiting the promise of the Father; we would wait and pray for such a pentecostal effusion of Thy grace in our times, that, though by a diversity of manifestation, it may fill and rest upon Thy Church; preparing all its members again to meet together with one accord, and to continue in prayer and supplication, till all being baptized as with the Holy Ghost and with fire, all may be trophies of grace for ever, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

2nd.

We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. *Acts ii. 11.*

We would bless and praise Thee, oh Lord, who hast freed us from the curse of the confusion of languages, and caused us to hear in our own tongue, wherein we were born, the record of Thy wonderful works. We would pray both to have our own lips touched as with a live coal from off Thine altar, that being enriched with all utterance, we may tell of Thy doings from day to day; and also that Thy blessed word may run, have free course, and be glorified, till every tongue throughout the earth, shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

3rd.

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. 1 Cor. v. 6, 7.

Holy and heart-searching God, whose eyes behold all the leaven of natural corruption that needs purging out of our hearts: we entreat Thee both to silence all our vain glorying in any thing we have or are; and also so to purge us that we may be clean, and wash us that we may be whiter than snow. Then, having Thine indwelling grace infused as a little leaven, gradually to leaven the whole lump, may we be altogether new creatures, both in heart and in life, till the day of Christ Jesus. Amen.

4th.

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, &c. John iii, 13, 14.

Oh Thou who art the Son of man in heaven, grant us an increase of humility and faith, meekly to receive into our *hearts* those mysteries of godliness, which pass man's *understanding*: that so, *believing* fully, while we know as yet but in part, we may wait till Thou, who for our sakes camest down from heaven, and ascendedst thither again, shalt likewise receive us where faith shall be changed to sight, and earthly things to heavenly ones, and we shall know, even as also we are known, according to Thy Word. Amen.

5th.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Matt. xxviii. 19.

Bestow, O Lord, we beseech Thee, on all us who have received the outward visible sign of baptism, that inward and spiritual grace, by which we may have Thee for our reconciled Father, Thy Son for our Saviour, and Thy Holy Ghost for our Sanctifier and Comforter. And then may Thy command to go and teach all nations be so written on our hearts, that, according to our several abilities, we may all be found striving to spread the knowledge of Thy truth, looking for that blessed time, when all the ends of the earth shall see Thy salvation, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

6th.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me. *Psalms cxlii. 7.*

Thanks be unto Thee, O Lord, that we are neither among those spirits in prison, to whom hope never comes, nor among the willing captives of Satan upon earth. We pray that through Thy bountiful dealing towards us, however low we may be brought, we may yet be delivered from the bondage of corruption, and ransomed from the power of the grave; and so among the blessed company, whose souls Thou hast 'brought out of prison, and whom alone we desire to compass us about, may praise Thy name for ever and ever, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

7th.

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John iv. 10.

Oh Thou who hast *so* loved us, as no tongue can declare, or heart conceive; help us to review with deep self-abasement and contrition, that time when we rejected or made light of Thine offered mercy: may we consider how astonishingly Thou hast commended Thy love towards us, by giving Thy Son, while we were yet sinners, to be the propitiation for our sins; and mourning all our past deficiencies in love, gratitude, and devotedness, may we now strive to prove that we do indeed love Thee, who first lovedst us, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

8th.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

1 John iv. 11.

Oh God of love; grant that Thy new commandment may be so grafted in our hearts, that, as beloved in the Lord, we may love one another with a pure heart fervently; making Thine everlasting, undeserved, and boundless love towards us worthless sinners, our high motive to all holy forbearance and long-suffering towards each other; and exercising day by day, all such dispositions in our social intercourse, as become the fellow-heirs of the grace of life, and joint-heirs with Christ our Saviour. Amen.

9th.

Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men. Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, &c. 2 Cor. iii. 2, 3.

Oh Thou who, of stones, canst raise up children unto Abraham; we implore Thee to change our naturally stony hearts to hearts of flesh, on which Thy Spirit may so write Thy law, that we may be manifestly declared to be epistles of Christ, known and read of all with whom we have to do. Oh do Thou work this in us, to the joy and encouragement of those who minister in Thy name among us in holy things, to the spiritual benefit of others, and to Thine own praise and glory, for Thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

10th.

By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea. *Psalms lxx. 5.*

Oh Thou Most High, whose right hand teacheth terrible things; how justly might we, once enemies by wicked works, have been made to *fall* under Thy righteous indignation! But Thou hast not dealt with us after our sins; and Thy sharp arrows of conviction have but wounded, that we might be healed, and become Thy willing subjects. Oh may increasing multitudes be thus continually falling under Thee, that Thy throne may be set up throughout the whole earth, and established for ever and ever, in Him whose right it is to reign. Amen.

11th.

Then Job answered and said, I have heard many such things : miserable comforters are ye all. *Job xvi. 1, 2.*

Oh Lord, who alone art the God of patience and consolation ; we acknowledge Thy mercy, in teaching us, however painfully, what miserable comforters are all that earth has to offer, when Thou with rebukes dost correct for iniquity, and layest Thy chastening hand either on the body or the spirit of Thy creatures. Oh do Thou turn us from them all to the one strong Hold, as prisoners of hope ; that coming to, and depending on Thee, and Thee alone, we may possess Thy promised rest for the weary and heavy-laden, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

12th.

For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.

2 Cor. xiii 8.

Oh Thou who with Thy word of truth hast quickened us, who were once dead in trespasses and sins, to some measure of spiritual life : we pray Thee so to subdue all those remaining corruptions of our hearts, which are barriers to the further establishment of Thy kingdom either within or around us ; that, with the Apostle, we may profess that good profession, " We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." We ask it for His sake who is Himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

13th.

For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake : because it hath pleased the Lord to make you his people.

1 Sam. xii. 22.

Oh Thou, the King of kings, and Lord of Lords, who, of Thine own good pleasure, and not for any worthiness that is in us, hast been graciously pleased to make us Thy people : we bless Thee for Thine own promise that Thou wilt never forsake us ; and beseech Thee so to keep us both in heart and mind, by Thy mighty power, that *we* may never more forsake *Thee*, or turn aside from Thee, to go after vain things which cannot profit. Grant this for Thine own great name and mercy's sake in Christ Jesus. Amen.

14th.

Great peace have they which love thy law : and nothing shall offend them. *Psalms* cxix. 165.

Oh Thou, who declarest that there is no peace to the wicked ; grant unto us, we pray Thee, that great peace which Thou hast promised to such as have their hearts fixed, to love Thy law, and to look for salvation to Thy Gospel. May we thus live not under the influence of servile fear, but rendering Thee willing service ; knowing Thy law to be holy, and just, and good, and experiencing the truth of Thy promise, that nothing shall prove a stumbling-block, or cause of offence to us, for Christ's sake. Amen.

15th.

* And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men, &c. *Luke v. 10, 11.*

Holy Lord, before whom we might well fall down, trembling and astonished under a due sense of our own sinfulness, and of Thy mighty power alone: we beseech Thee, of Thy mercy, to say to our souls, "Fear not." Then do Thou so dispose and turn our hearts, that we may be prepared, if need be, to forsake *all* we prize on earth, that we may both follow Thee fully and unhesitatingly ourselves, and also become wise to win the souls of others, and that Thou mayest be glorified in and by us for ever, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

16th.

O Lord, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

Psalms xxx. 3.

Oh Lord, we pray Thee to assist us in calling to remembrance Thy manifold and great mercies, both towards our bodies and our souls, which Thou hast alike created by Thy mighty power, and redeemed through Thine unspeakable mercy. Oh that since Thou keepest us alive, that we should not go down to the pit, and likewise bringest up our souls from a spiritual grave, we might resolve, whether we live, to live unto the Lord, and whether we die, to die unto the Lord, so that, living or dying, we may be ever Thine, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

17th.

Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. *Psalms xxx. 4.*

Oh Thou who hast called us to be saints; help us not only to give thanks at the remembrance of *Thy* holiness, but also to aspire more and more after being made partakers of it ourselves. Yet, poor sinners as we are, may our songs of praise be the loudest, while we remember the one unspeakable gift of Thy Holy One, as Him who, we trust, has loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood; to whom, with Thee, oh Holy Father, and Thee, oh Spirit of all grace, be endless praises. Amen.

18th.

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand. *1 Cor. xv. 1.*

Merciful Lord, we acknowledge it to be of Thy free grace alone, that the blessed Gospel has been fully preached and declared amongst us, while multitudes of our fellow-creatures yet sit in darkness, and hear not its joyful sound. Oh give unto us such grace, that we may not only hear it with our outward ears, but likewise receive it into our inmost souls: that so, building all our hopes and desires on the one sure foundation, we may stand fast for ever and ever, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

19th.

For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Heb. xiii. 14.

Oh Lord Jehovah, with whom is no variableness; grant, we pray Thee, that while all the appointments of Thy providence are constantly proving that here we can have no continuing city, the influences of Thy grace may so sanctify the conviction, that as strangers and pilgrims on the earth, we may daily seek after fuller preparation for the city of everlasting habitation which is above, and be cheerfully prepared to arise and depart thither at Thy bidding, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

20th.

But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they. *Acts xv. 11.*

Oh Thou of whose only gift it cometh that any can render to Thee true and acceptable service; suffer us not to rely on any outward forms or national privileges, as the ground of acceptance before Thee: but feeling that there is none other name under heaven, whereby any sinful child of Adam can be saved, but that of Christ Jesus Thy Son, may we look for salvation to His free grace alone, and desire to have our hearts daily purified by faith that is in Him. Hear and answer us for His sake alone. Amen.

21st.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness, &c. 1 *Pet.* ii. 9, 10.

Oh Thou who hast graciously called us out of the darkness and nothingness of our state by nature, to obtain mercy, and rejoice in Thy marvellous light: give us grace, we entreat Thee, to fulfil the purpose of our calling, by showing forth Thy praise; considering both *from* what, and *to* what Thou hast called us, and walking ever in the steps of the chosen generation, the royal priesthood, the holy nation, the peculiar people, who shall glorify Thee in Christ Jesus, world without end. Amen.

22nd.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall. 2 *Pet.* i. 10.

Oh Thou whose ways are all past finding out; silence, we pray Thee, all such vain questions and doubts as ever lodge within our hearts, concerning those secret things which belong to Thee and not to us: and meekly receiving Thy declaration, that whom Thou wilt Thou callest, may all our diligence be rather given, to make our own calling and election sure, by the tests revealed to us in Thine own word; relying then on Thy precious promise, that so doing, we shall never fall. Grant this for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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23rd.

I have chosen the way of truth : thy judgments have I laid before me. *Psalms cxix. 30.*

Oh Lord God of truth, have mercy upon us. Turn us from all the deceitful and ruinous paths of the father of lies. Cause us to lay before us for our continual guidance, those judgments of Thine, which are true and righteous altogether, and ever henceforth to make Thy holy way the object of our deliberate and determined choice. Oh hold Thou up our goings therein, that we neither stumble nor fall ; and lead us in it as the way everlasting, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

24th.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. *Psalms cxlv. 18.*

Oh Thou who, as a Spirit, wilt be worshipped in spirit and in truth ; grant to us that calling on Thee day by day, not with our lips only, but with true hearts, in full assurance of faith, we may find Thee ever a God nigh at hand, and not afar off, able and willing, according to Thine own gracious promise, to hear and to answer, to direct, to succour, and to bless us, with the rich and abundant blessing of them that fear Thee, till our prayers are all turned to praises in Thy presence above, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

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25th.

O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? *Jer. v. 3.*

Holy and heart-searching God, give us grace to live, and act, and speak, under an abiding remembrance that Thine eyes are upon the truth, and that lying lips are an abomination unto Thee. Oh may we be so girt about with truth, and so hate every false way, that our Christian sincerity may be manifest to all with whom we have to do, and that we may be owned and blessed as Israelites indeed, in whom is no guile. Yea, may the Spirit of truth himself be our guide in all things, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

26th.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ : for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth ; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. *Rom. i. 16.*

Pardon, oh merciful Saviour, we beseech Thee, all Thou hast seen in us, of thought, word, or deed, that has savoured of being ashamed of that glorious Gospel, for the excellency of which we might well count all things else as loss. Oh that believing with our hearts its revelation of mercy, and confessing with our lips its blessed truths, we may find it indeed the power of God unto our own salvation, and strive to extend its benefits to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile, till all tongues and all hearts confess Thee Lord, for ever. Amem.

27th.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. &c. *Rom. v. 10, 11.*

God of all grace, who gavest Thine only begotten Son, when we were yet alienated and enemies by wicked works, to reconcile us to Thyself by his own death for our sakes; give us, we pray Thee, grace, so to receive this His atonement for us, that we may be made partakers of eternal life through His life: and amidst all the chances and changes of our earthly course, may ever find cause to joy in Thee, as our reconciled Father, our gracious preserver, and our portion for ever, in and through Him. Amen.

28th.

And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead. *Matt. viii. 21, 22.*

Gracious Saviour, who in calling us to follow Thee, callest us from darkness to light, and from death to life; enable us joyfully to arise and obey Thy call, without either the delays or the reservations of the time past: laying aside every weight: letting no earthly ties or attractions detain us: but while desiring to bring all we love to walk with us in Thy ways, willing to give up all at Thy command, if so we may follow Thee now in heart and life, and reign with Thee hereafter, world without end. Amen.

29th.

In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death. *Prov. xii. 28.*

Oh Lord our righteousness, we entreat that we, who by nature are inheritors both of spiritual and eternal death, may, by thy grace, both have life, and have it more abundantly. And while hoping for it, only in and through Him who, of Thee, is made unto us righteousness, may we feel that the way in which we are called of Thee to walk, must be one of sincere, though necessarily defective holiness. Oh grant that such a way may be one of life to us, and lead us to Thy holy rest which is above, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

30th.

From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

Psalms lxi. 2.

Oh Thou who art the rock of our salvation; we *may* not doubt Thy readiness both to hear and to help us, whatever our extremity, or our distance from earthly comforters. Oh do Thou so lead us to, and keep us near Thyself, when our hearts would otherwise be overwhelmed within us, that in crying to Thee we may find relief in every trouble, and in looking higher than any created supports, may experience the abiding comfort of the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, for Jesus Thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

.31st.

But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. *Matt. xv. 13.*

Heavenly Father, we know that Thy purposes must be fulfilled, in the final uprooting of every plant which is not of Thine own planting. We therefore desire to open our hearts to Thee now in the day of Thy grace and long-suffering, that Thou mayest in mercy cleanse and renew them; and pray that instead of being found at last among the tares to be burned everlastingly, we may be made plants of righteousness, to yield Thee good fruit now, and flourish in Thy courts above, for ever, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

NOVEMBER.

1st.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. *Rom. vi. 5.*

Blessed Jesus, may it be the subject of our constant and earnest desire, to prove that we have indeed been planted together in the likeness of Thy death, by a true spiritual baptism. And may it be our daily aim, to die unto sin, by crucifying the flesh and the world, and to rise with Thee into newness of life here on earth; that thus we may, through Thy grace assisting us, at last attain to the joyful resurrection unto life eternal, promised to all believers in Thy truth and mercy. Amen.

2nd.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. *1 Cor. iii. 9.*

Grant, Lord, we pray that, while the ministers and stewards of Thy mysteries are spending their strength in planting and watering amongst us, as labourers together with Thee, we may, through their means, look for that blessing which Thou, who givest the increase, alone canst bestow. Thus seeking to be Thy husbandry and Thy building, may we be helpers of their joy; and while serving Thee in our calling, ourselves also share the privilege of being workers with Thee, in and through Christ Jesus. Amen.

3rd.

For ye are bought with a price : therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 *Cor.* vi. 20.

Oh Thou who hast purchased us to Thyself, not with corruptible things, such as silver and gold, but with the inestimable price of Thine own most precious blood ; we pray Thee to keep us from ever again walking as if we were *our own* : and that instead of any more living unto ourselves, we may yield all the powers of our mind, and all the members of our bodies, to be instruments of righteousness unto Thee, thus glorifying Thee day by day, with our bodies and our spirits which are Thine, evermore. Amen.

4th.

Let my heart be sound in thy statutes ; that I be not ashamed.

Psalms cxix. 80.

Oh Lord our God, we know that all Thy statutes are right, and rejoice the hearts that are fully set on them. Oh that we, whose lips are accustomed to speak of them, may have our hearts so made sound in them by their indwelling power, that while those are ashamed who receive them in word alone, they may be our daily songs in the house of our pilgrimage, and our heritage for ever, giving us joyful confidence before Thee, for Thy great mercy's sake in Christ Jesus. Amen.

5th.

Waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ : Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 1-7, 8.

Oh Lord Jesu Christ, the great day of whose power we know to be fast approaching; grant to us, we beseech Thee, to be so made ready for Thine appearing, that we may be ever waiting for it in humble and joyful hope. We bless Thee for having begun a good work in us; and pray Thee so to strengthen and confirm us unto the end, that we may come behind in no gift, but worthless and unworthy as we are without Thee, we may by Thee be pronounced blameless, through thine abounding mercy. Amen.

6th.

The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Psalm cxxxviii. 8.

Oh God our rock, whose every work is perfect, and whose mercy endureth for ever; let Thine eyes of compassion be turned, we beseech Thee, on us, Thy spiritual workmanship, whom Thou hast created anew in Christ Jesus. And as Thou hast wrought all our works in us hitherto, oh forsake not this work of Thine own hands, but vouchsafe in Thine own time and way, so to perfect that which concerneth us, that at the last we may be found complete in Him in whom is all our hope. Amen.

7th.

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us- 2 Cor. 1. 20.

Oh Thou who hast given us exceeding great and precious promises, we look to Thee also for grace to receive them aright. Oh grant that knowing them all to be yea and Amen in Christ Jesus, and in Him alone, we may earnestly desire to be established in Him, and sealed with His Holy Spirit of promise: and while striving to give glory to Thy name, by our daily walk and conversation, may we rejoice in faith and hope, assured that not one jot or one tittle of Thy word can ever fail, being confirmed by Thy promise and Thine oath in Him. Amen.

8th.

My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the Lord. *Psalms* xxvi. 12.

Oh Lord, Thou knowest how often we seem to stand in slippery places, where we slide or fall, thus dishonouring Thee, and wounding our own consciences. Oh do Thou henceforth establish our goings in Thy paths; and grant that our feet, being shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, may stand in an even place; that so we may never be greatly moved; but praise Thee now in the congregation of Thy saints on earth, and finally with all the company of the faithful above, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

9th.

Now 'therefore perform the doing of it ; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have, &c. 2 Cor. viii. 11, 12.

Oh Thou who alone canst work in us either to will or to do, we bless Thee for having wrought in us any measure of the readiness of a willing mind, to such works of faith, or labours of love, as Thou hast set before us ; and we entreat Thee further to impart the supply of grace needful for the performance of every holy purpose Thou hast implanted within us : that so, while, having nothing of our own, we can but bring Thee that which is already Thine, Thou mayest yet graciously accept our humble offering, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

10th.

God hath spoken once : twice have I heard this ; that power belongeth unto God. Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy : for thou renderest to every man according to his work. Ps. lxxii. 11, 12.

Blessed Lord, we confess with shame how often Thou hast spoken to us, by Thy word, and by Thy providence, of Thy power and of Thy mercy, and we have been as those that heard not. Oh grant that henceforth we may meekly receive every testimony Thou givest us concerning Thyself, and Thy dealings with us Thine unworthy creatures ; and looking to Thee to render to every man according to his works, may we never rest without a well grounded conviction, that Thou hast wrought all our works in us, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

11th.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. *2 Cor. xi. 3.*

Oh Lord our God, we know that we are as fearfully endangered as was our first mother, by the subtlety of that old serpent, who is the father of lies. We desire safety therefore, in such a sense both of his power, and of our own weakness, as may cast us altogether on Thee; that so, our minds never being either beguiled or corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ, we may, in following Him, be ourselves made wise as serpents, and harmless and simple as doves, and in and through Him be preserved everlastingly. Amen.

12th.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. *Psalms lxxxiv. 11.*

Oh Lord God, whose promises have been the strength and stay of all the saints, who are now before Thy throne above; enable us, we beseech Thee, while walking uprightly as they did, to rejoice in the assurance, that, no good thing shall be withheld from us. Oh be Thou to us, as to Thine ancient people in the wilderness, a Sun and shield, and light and defence: that we may fear neither for the terror by night, nor for the arrow by day, but experience abundant grace now, and glory everlasting when our course is done, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

13th.

Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil, &c. *Hab. ii. 9, 10.*

Preserve us, O Lord, we pray Thee, from every feeling or purpose that might expose us to the woe Thou denouncest on the sinners against their own souls, who consult shame and not honour to themselves, by coveting an evil covetousness, and seeking to set their nest on high. Oh may we, instead of thus lading ourselves with thick clay, desire only the one thing needful, even Thy grace and Thy salvation; and thus when many are fearfully cut off, be surely delivered from evil, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

14th.

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. *Isaiah xli. 3.*

Blessed Lord, who openest the wells of salvation to all who thirst after the living water, which issues thence, and thence alone; Oh may our journey through the wilderness be cheered by Thy life-giving and refreshing streams; that so our souls may be satisfied in drought; and whatever troubles or dangers assail us in flesh or spirit, we turn thither, and with joy draw water thence, to drink abundantly even now, and anticipate the full river of the water of life, in Thy paradise on high, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

15th.

If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest ? *Luke xii. 26.*

Oh Thou who feedest the ravens, and clothest the lilies, without care or thought of theirs ; give us grace to place ourselves so unreservedly and unconditionally in Thy hands, for the regulation of all that concerns either the life that now is, or that which is to come, that we may be free from all anxious thought concerning the morrow ; and feeling our own inability to do that thing even which is least, may enjoy the peaceful confidence of knowing that thou wilt care for us, and do all things well for us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

16th.

She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her : and happy is every one that retaineth her. *Prov. iii. 18.*

Oh Thou the all-wise God ; preserve us, we beseech Thee, from the snare and curse of unsanctified knowledge ; and grant that in its stead, we may both seek and find that wisdom from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, to the praise and glory of Thy name. Laying hold on this, may it prove to us a tree of life, unfading and unfailing ; and retaining it ever in our hearts, may we find it conduce to our daily peace and happiness, through him who, as Himself the wisdom of God, we desire to be such unto us for ever. Amen.

17th.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. *Phil. iv. 19.*

Oh God, *our* God; we own the folly and sin of every distrustful anxiety concerning our true welfare, which we know to be in Thy safe keeping. Oh may we henceforth stay ourselves, and encourage each other in Thy word; daily meditating on and resorting to those inexhaustible riches in glory by Christ Jesus, out of which Thou dost promise abundantly to supply all our need of every kind, and to fill our hearts with Thy heavenly benediction. Oh may we thence be ever satisfied with the blessings of Thy goodness, for Jesus' sake, Amen.

18th.

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. *Matt. xix. 26.*

Lord of all power and might; grant that a deep and deepening conviction of our own impotence, and of Thine Omnipotence, may silence all doubtful questionings in our hearts, as to any of the truths of Thy holy Word. And knowing the things even most impossible with men, to be all possible with Thee, may we especially commit our souls, with all their concerns, to Thee as to a faithful Creator; that thou mayest deliver them out of all perils, and preserve them unto everlasting life, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

19th.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. *John vi. 37.*

Blessed Jesus, we desire to be kept from any presumptuous intrusion into those divine mysteries which pass man's understanding. We know not *how* Thou hast asked, and the Father hath given; nor *who* are thus ordained to eternal life: but we do know that there is no salvation but in Thee; and that whosoever cometh to Thee, Thou wilt in no wise cast out. Blessing Thee therefore that no *practical* difficulties stand in our way, may we daily come, and obtain pardon, peace, and endless life, for Thy mercy's sake. Amen.

20th.

O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. *Psalms xxxiv. 8.*

Heavenly Father, the earth is indeed full of Thy mercy, and all around us testifies of Thy great goodness. Help us to mourn the insensibility of our hearts, which ought to be daily melted in holy gratitude and love; and grant henceforth, that we may not only *see*, but personally *taste* how good Thou art, and how blessed are all they that put their trust in Thee. May we call on our own souls, and all that is within us, to praise Thy name, and invite others to join us in such preparation for the unceasing praises of heaven, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

21st.

The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. *Prov. xiii. 14.*

Oh Thou who alone givest wisdom ; may we be made truly wise, by being instructed out of Thy law. Oh do Thou open our eyes to behold more and more of the wondrous things that are in it ; and then, though the snares of death should compass us about, may we be enabled to depart from, and rise above them all, and drink abundantly of that fountain of life Thou hast opened for us : yea, may we find it a well of water springing up into everlasting life, through Thy well-beloved Son. Amen.

22nd.

Hell and destruction are before the Lord : how much more then the hearts of the children of men ? *Prov. xv. 11.*

Oh God, the omniscient and omnipresent, before whom hell is open, and destruction hath no covering ; how fearful would be the thought that Thou knowest us altogether, might we not appear before Thee pleading His name and His merits, who died to save, and ever liveth to make intercession for us. Oh that while the secret sins of the dark chambers of imagery within us are all naked and open before Thee, they may all be cleansed with His most precious blood, to Thy glory, and our salvation. Amen.

23rd.

My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.

Psalms civ. 34.

Gracious Lord, we bless Thee for the hope that Thy thoughts towards us are thoughts of peace, and not of evil. Oh may our meditations of Thee become more and more sweet, as we individually trace Thee through the past, depend on Thee for the present, and trust Thee with the future of our lives. May we meditate on the Father in His promises, on the Son in His righteousness, and on the Spirit in His influences, till we are glad and rejoice greatly in the Lord, and are meetened to praise Father, Son, and Spirit, for ever above. Amen.

24th.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. *John xv. 7.*

Blessed Jesus, separate from whom we can do nothing; we confess with shame the wanderings of our hearts from Thee, and of our lives from the word of Thy truth. We beseech Thee so to keep us from this time forth, that we may realize the safety and blessedness of abiding in Thee, and having Thy word to abide in us. Thus may all our thoughts, and purposes, and desires be so renewed through our union with Thee, that we may ask what we will; and, asking faithfully, receive effectually according to our petitions, evermore. Amen.

25th.

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power, &c.

Acts i. 7, 8.

Pour out upon us, oh Lord, we entreat Thee, as on the primitive disciples, such power of the Holy Ghost, as may prepare us to be witnesses unto Thee wherever Thy good providence shall see fit to place us. And while the times and the seasons of Thy special operations are not for us to know, may we do all that in us lies, to extend the knowledge of Thy name to the uttermost parts of the earth, and to promote the restoration of the lost sheep of the house of Israel to the kingdom which cannot be moved, for ever. Amen.

26th.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, &c. *Heb. x. 19—24.*

Oh Thou merciful and faithful High Priest, who hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest by Thy blood: grant, in fulfilment of thy purposes of mercy towards us, that we may draw near with true hearts and holy boldness, to be sprinkled from an evil conscience, and washed as with pure water: that we may hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, to the full assurance thereof unto the end: and that we may avoid any other provocation of each other, than that to love and to good works, to the praise and glory of Thy name, world without end. Amen.

27th.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. *Isaiah v. 3.*

Oh Thou who hast planted us in Thy vineyard, that we might bring forth fruit unto Thee: we cannot but judge *ourselves* unworthy to remain there, after failing, as we have done, to yield according to the care and culture bestowed on us. Yet while we bless Thee that Thou hast more clearly revealed to us than to Thine ancient people, Him who is the true Vine, we pray that, being made living branches in Him, separate from whom we could do nothing, Thou mayest henceforth be glorified in our bringing forth much fruit. Amen.

28th.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, &c. *Heb. xiii. 20, 21.*

Oh God of peace, who hast reconciled us to Thyself, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: grant, for the sake of that great Shepherd of the sheep, who for us, both laid down His life, and took it again, that we may be so made new creatures in Him, as at last to be found perfect in every good work to do Thy will; having all our sins washed away in His blood, and all that is well-pleasing in Thy sight wrought in us, by the operation of His Spirit: and to the ever blessed Trinity in unity, be glory for ever. Amen.

29th.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those, &c. *Isaiah xxxv. 8, 9, 10.*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, who hast ransomed us from destruction, and invited us to walk with thee; grant that while deeply conscious of our natural uncleanness as well as folly, we may yet look for quietness and assurance only as Thou givest us grace to walk in the way of holiness. Oh that as the redeemed of the Lord, walking therein, as in a plain path, we may neither err nor turn aside; but be kept from the roaring lion, with all other perils or fears, and be brought at last to Zion, with songs and everlasting joy upon our heads, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

30th.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, &c. *1 Pet. i. 18, 19.*

O God, our Creator and Redeemer, we had destroyed ourselves, but in Thee is our help. O let us never forget the inestimable price given for our souls, nor desire either in heart or life to return to that former vain conversation, from which we have been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. But counting silver and gold, and all corruptible things as dross, when compared with a portion among them that are sanctified by faith that is in Him, may we be true followers of the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

DECEMBER.

1st.

He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out ; they ran in the dry places like a river. *Psalms* cv. 41.

Oh Thou who rulest alike in the kingdoms of nature and of grace ; it is through the operation of Thy Spirit alone, that our stony hearts can be softened and melted. Oh grant that the life-giving streams of Thy grace may flow into them in rich abundance, that so they may be purified and renewed day by day : and then may the same grace, like a river of blessing, gush out from the rock thou hast opened, and run into all the dry places around ; that so, in watering, we may be watered, and in blessing others enjoy the dew of Thy blessing ourselves, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

2nd.

Mercy and truth are met together ; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth ; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. *Psalms* lxxxv. 10, 11.

Oh Thou whose everlasting covenant engages, not one, but all Thine infinite perfections, to look down, as it were, from heaven, and proclaim glory to Thee and good-will to men ; we bless Thee that in it, Thou declarest Thyself at once merciful and gracious, and faithful and true ; a just God and yet a Saviour. Oh grant that while Thou thus causest mercy and truth to meet together, righteousness and peace to kiss each other, Thy truth may also spring out of the earth, and yield more and more of the fruits of righteousness from all our hearts, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

3rd.

For now we see through a glass, darkly ; but then face to face ; now I know in part ; but then shall I know even as also I am known. *1 Cor. xiii. 12.*

Oh Thou who dwellest in the light which no man may approach unto, it is our unspeakable privilege to approach Thee, though but through a glass darkly, and to know Thee, though but in part. Oh may the eyes of our understanding be continually enlightened, that we may grow in all spiritual knowledge and grace ; and while beholding Thy glory in the face of Christ Jêsus, may we be changed into the same image ; and wait till for His sake Thou admit us to see face to face, and know as we are known, in Thy presence above, for ever. Amen.

4th.

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul : the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple, &c. *Psalms xix. 7, 8.*

Oh Lord our God, whose every word is pure and precious ; give us grace so to receive it, that Thy perfect law may convert and restore our sinful souls ; Thy sure testimony turn our simplicity to heavenly wisdom ; Thy right statutes rejoice our hearts, and be our daily songs in the house of our pilgrimage ; and Thy pure commandments enlighten the eyes of our minds, to see more and more of the wonders of Thy holy word, as a revelation, not of wrath, but of mercy, in and through Thy beloved Son our Saviour. Amen.

5th.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God ; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. *Rom. iii. 23, 24.*

Blessed Lord, we entreat Thee, to engrave as with the point of a diamond on our memories and our hearts, those great vital truths which are essential to our salvation. Convince us fully of our personal share in the guilt and curse of sin : shew us all the freeness and fullness of Thy grace : keep us from ever seeking to be justified otherwise than by the redemption that is in Christ Jesus : and casting ourselves on Him alone for time and for eternity, may we not come short of Thy glory, but be accepted of Thee in Him for ever. Amen.

6th.

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Rom. vi. 22.

Thanks be to Thee, oh Lord, that whereas we were by nature bond-slaves of sin and Satan, the Son has made us free, that we should be Thy willing servants. Oh that although in ourselves altogether unprofitable, Thou wouldest cause us, through Thy grace, to have our fruit unto holiness, to the praise and glory of Thy name ; and that instead of receiving at the end, the wages of sin, which is death, we may look and wait for Thy great gift of everlasting life, freely bestowed on us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

7th.

And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom : and he saith unto him Follow me. And he arose and followed him. *Matt. ix. 9.*

Oh Thou whose eye is ever upon us amidst our daily pursuits and engagements; we thank Thee for the gracious call to each of us, to follow Thee. May we, through grace, obey the call, abstaining from all employments that would separate between Thee and our souls; striving to serve Thee in our calling, and following Thee now in heart and life; that we may be prepared, whenever Thy summons comes, joyfully to arise and depart, to be with Thee where Thou art, which is far better. Hear us for Thy great mercy's sake. Amen.

8th.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. *Matt. xvi. 15, 16.*

Oh Thou whom we know assuredly to be the Christ, the Son of the living God; we pray that whatever others do or say, we may be made partakers of the blessing of such as profess a good profession concerning Thee. May we fully confess Thee with our understandings, with our affections, with our life and conversation, and with our hopes and expectations; letting all testify that we would be Thine, faithfully serving Thee upon earth, and looking to reign with Thee in heaven, for Thy mercy's sake. Amen.

9th.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. *Acts ix. 15.*

Oh Thou who seest not as man seeth, neither givest account of any of Thy matters: never let us presume to judge concerning any of our fellow-creatures, who are, or are not vessels of mercy, chosen of Thee to shew forth Thy praise. But hoping we belong ourselves to that happy number, may we be ever ready, at Thy bidding, to bear the name of Christ, and Him crucified wherever Thou seest fit to send us, whether to Jew or Gentile, rich or poor, as all our salvation, and all our desire, for ever. Amen.

10th.

And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Exodus xvii. 11.

Inspirer and Hearer of prayer, pity and pardon, we entreat Thee, all the heaviness and drowsiness of spirit which too often mark our approaches to Thee. Fix our hearts and hopes on Him who must be our all in all, if we would be accepted of Thee: encourage us with the certainty of a favourable result of all our conflicts, if he is our strength; and stir us up, with the grateful remembrance of past deliverances, to more earnestness of prayer, personal, intercessory, and social, till Thou bless us with final victory, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

11th.

And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

Mark viii. 24.

Oh Thou who alone canst give sight either to the naturally or spiritually blind ; we bless Thee for having brought us, who once sat in darkness, to see the light of Thy truth. And though it be but yet dimly and imperfectly, we entreat Thee to put Thy hands upon us again and again, and to keep us ever looking up unto Thyself, till Thy work of grace is perfected ; and we see, no longer, men as trees walking, or earthly things only ; but have our senses exercised to discern spiritual realities, and are meetened to see Thee as Thou art, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

12th.

As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling-stone and rock of offence : and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Rom. ix. 33.

Oh Thou who layest in Zion a chief corner-stone, which to the unbelieving and self-confident must ever prove a stone of stumbling and rock of offence : grant us grace to *prove* how precious and sure a foundation it is, on which to build all our hope ; that so coming to it as to the one only sanctuary, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of Thee, we may also, as lively stones, be built up a spiritual house ; and through faith be so kept, as to be neither ashamed nor confounded, world without end, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

13th.

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize ? So run, that ye may obtain. 1 *Cor.* ix. 24.

Blessed Lord, who hast set before us a race which none can with safety decline to run, enable us, we pray Thee, so to run, that we may obtain the incorruptible crown which thou offerest, not to one, but to all who earnestly seek it. We bless Thee that it is not to be earned, but given, since we cannot take one step towards it of ourselves ; and we pray for grace to look ever unto Jesus, and to run with patience the race set before us, till our course be ended, and our crown won, to cast at His feet for ever. Amen.

14th.

I have gone astray like a lost sheep ; seek thy servant ; for I do not forget thy commandments. *Psalms* cxix. 176.

Oh Thou great and good Shepherd, who, in infinite compassion camest down to seek and to save that which was lost ; grant that humbly confessing how far, like lost sheep, we have gone astray, we may look to Thee, who alone canst either bring us back, or keep us from further wandering. And being never more suffered to forget, as we have done, Thy commandments, may we be so led in the path of them, as to enjoy present peace and safety, and look joyfully for final salvation, for Thy great name and mercy's sake. Amen.

15th.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. *Acts ii. 42.*

Oh Thou who art ever the same, and changest not; give, we beseech Thee, to us poor, frail, vacillating creatures of the dust, the power which we by nature cannot have, of patient and stedfast continuance in Thy blessed commandments and ordinances; and enable us to follow in the steps of Thy holy Apostles, both as to purity of doctrine, true Christian fellowship, communion of the body and blood of Christ, and instant and fervent prayer; thus proving ourselves members of the church built on their foundation, in and through Christ Jesus. Amen.

16th.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God, &c.

Col. iii. 1-5.

Blessed Saviour, who didst rise from the dead the third day, to ascend and appear for us at the right hand of the Father: we pray Thee, as our Life, to raise us up, not only from the death of sin, but also from all undue affection to the things on the earth. May we diligently seek and set our minds on those which are above; dying daily to all inferior objects; and having our life so hid with Thee, that we may constantly and joyfully look forward to Thine appearing again, when we also hope to appear with Thee in glory everlasting. Amen.

17th.

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God : but he that doeth evil hath not seen God. 3 *John* 11.

Oh Lord, our God, who hast graciously given us to *know* good and evil; we pray Thee further to impress our hearts with the utter insufficiency of such knowledge, unless we strive to do, yea, diligently to follow after the better way. Oh do Thou so turn our hearts from the love of sin and the power of Satan, to Thyself; that, abhorring that which is evil, and cleaving to that which is good, we may now be fully proved to be of Thee, by our whole life and conversation, and look to see Thee hereafter, without sin, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

18th.

For ye were as sheep going astray ; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. 1 *Pet.* ii. 25.

Oh Thou who art the Shepherd and Bishop of souls ; we must confess with shame how far and how wilfully, like lost sheep, we have gone astray from Thee ; and recal with adoring gratitude Thine amazing love in coming to seek and save the lost. Oh that having given us grace to return to Thyself, Thou wouldest keep us from wandering again, and cause us continually to hear and know Thy voice, and to follow Thee with all Thy flock, in the way to the heavenly fold, hoping there to be with Thee for ever. Amen.

19th.

For sin shall not have dominion over you : for ye are not under the law, but under grace. *Rom. vi. 14.*

Holy Lord, Thou knowest how easily sin besets us, and how often it strives for the mastery. But we bless Thee for the gracious assurance, that it shall not have the dominion over us, if we are the subjects of Thy grace. Oh that where sin has abounded, as it, alas, has done in us, Thy grace might much more abound ; and that we might at once look to it alone for salvation, and strive, from a principle of filial love, to keep Thy law, as diligently as if we were still under the law, and not under grace. Grant it for Jesus' sake alone. Amen.

20th.

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me : and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God. *Ps. i. 23.*

Oh Lord God, who knowest that it is not in man to direct his own steps : keep us yet as diligently striving to order our conversation aright, as if the power were of us, and not of Thee. Oh grant that by daily prayer, by an habitual sense of Thy presence, and by an abiding regard to the coming judgment, our way may be rightly disposed ; and that while seeking to do all Thou requirest, and conscious we can do nothing of ourselves, we may be made partakers of the full and free salvation, prepared for them that love Thee, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

21st.

Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. *2 John 8.*

Suffer us not, O Lord, we entreat Thee, to lose through carelessness of spirit, any good things that may from time to time have been wrought in us, through Thine appointed means of grace, or opportunities vouchsafed us of Christian instruction: but knowing what treacherous hearts we have, may we look, yea, give diligent heed to ourselves; that so both we, and those who have watched over and cared for our souls, may at the last receive that full reward, which Thy grace bestows through Christ Jesus. Amen.

22nd.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. *Mark xvi. 16.*

Oh merciful Lord, who hast opened our blind eyes to see something of the blessedness of being saved of Thee: may we more and more fully partake of the blessings of Thy salvation, in Thine own appointed way. Lord, we believe, help Thou, we pray Thee, our unbelief, and increase our faith. Lord, we have received the outward visible sign of baptism; oh, that we may indeed be baptized with the Holy Ghost and with power, and thus, with all Thy faithful people, be saved everlastingly, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

23rd.

Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; that I may see the good of thy chosen, &c. *Psalms* cvi. 4, 5.

Grant, Lord, we beseech Thee, that while so many vainly ask, "Who will show us any good," it may be our happy lot to be remembered by Thee with the special favour Thou bearest to the people whom Thou hast chosen to be Thine own inheritance. May we not only *see* their good, but rejoice in their gladness, being ourselves visited with Thy salvation, and taught, with all Thy nation, to glory in nothing, save only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, and everlasting hope. Amen.

24th.

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know, &c. *Deut.* viii. 3.

Oh God of Israel, who art, we trust, leading us onwards towards the heavenly Canaan; we pray for grace to be truly humbled, and effectually taught, by all the afflictive discipline of Thy providence. Oh do Thou feed us ever with food convenient for us. Grant that with the *bread* of the means of grace, the *Word* that proceeds from Thy mouth may bring the grace itself: and amidst all changes, may we embrace Thy promises with joy, and expect their accomplishment in faith, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

25th.

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things. *Eph. iv. 10.*

Oh Thou, who for us wast not only born to dwell with men, but didst die and descend into the lower parts of the earth: may we learn to silence all the shudderings of nature at the prospect of the grave, since Thou hast Thyself slept there: and may we more and more in heart thither ascend, where Thou wentest up on high, to lead captivity captive, and give gifts unto men. Oh that we may there in due time be permitted to see Thee fill all things, and share thy triumph, world without end. Amen.

26th.

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. *Acts viii. 17.*

Blessed Lord, who gavest to the primitive believers miraculous gifts of the Holy Ghost, through the laying on of the Apostles' hands: make it, we pray Thee, our earnest desire to receive His yet more precious, if less extraordinary influences, as the Spirit of life, and light, and comfort; and may they be specially poured forth on us, and on all who call themselves Christians, through the agency of those whom Thou yet appointest to be the ministers and stewards of Thy mysteries, through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

27th.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me : and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, &c.
John xiv. 21.

Gracious Saviour, we do, we trust, love Thee, though most inadequately, and only because Thou first lovedst us : Oh may love constrain us to aim at knowing and keeping *all* Thy commandments, feeling that none of them can ever be grievous : and abiding in the love both of the Father and of the Son, may God manifest in the flesh, be made manifest unto us, and the Spirit take of the things of Christ to shew them unto us ; that so we may have cause to rejoice in God for ever, through Christ His Son. Amen.

28th.

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ. *Phil. i. 27.*

Oh Lord our God, Thou hast by Thy grace called us to the citizenship of the new Jerusalem. Oh do Thou also so transform our whole life and conversation that they may be conformable to so high an honour ; and that ceasing from all the works and ways of the children of this world, we may serve Thee with our spirits in the gospel of Thy Son, and study to walk before Thee in all things as becometh saints, through the same Lord and only Saviour, Christ Jesus. Amen.

29th.

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Tim. ii. 4

Oh God of holiness; who amongst us could say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" Yet do Thou so graciously hear and fulfil the desire of our hearts, when we call upon Thee for renewing and sanctifying grace, that we may be strengthened to mortify and flee every lust that warreth against the soul, and stedfastly to follow righteousness, faith, charity, and peace, that so we may be made of Thee vessels of honor, meet for the Master's use, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

30th.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 1 Thess. v. 21.

Father of lights, with whom the best wisdom of man is but foolishness: we pray that the conviction of this truth may induce us to bring our every subject of consideration, to the law and to the testimony, for Thy decision. Keep us from ever adopting any rule either of faith or practice, without first thus *proving* it: and that which this test pronounces good, may we hold fast; and all that it proves evil, have grace utterly to renounce, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

31st.

faith, charity,
heart.
2 Tim ii. 22
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Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee : because he trusteth in thee. *Isaiah xxvi. 3.*

Oh Lord Jehovah, the rock of ages, and the rock of our strength ; grant that while all earthly dependencies must, from their nature, either pass from us, or we from them, Thy grace may so fix these wandering hearts of ours, that they may be ever stayed upon Thee ; and that trusting in Thee, and Thee alone for ever, we may experimentally know that perfect peace, amidst all outward uncertainties and changes, which is the blessed result of perfect trust, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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